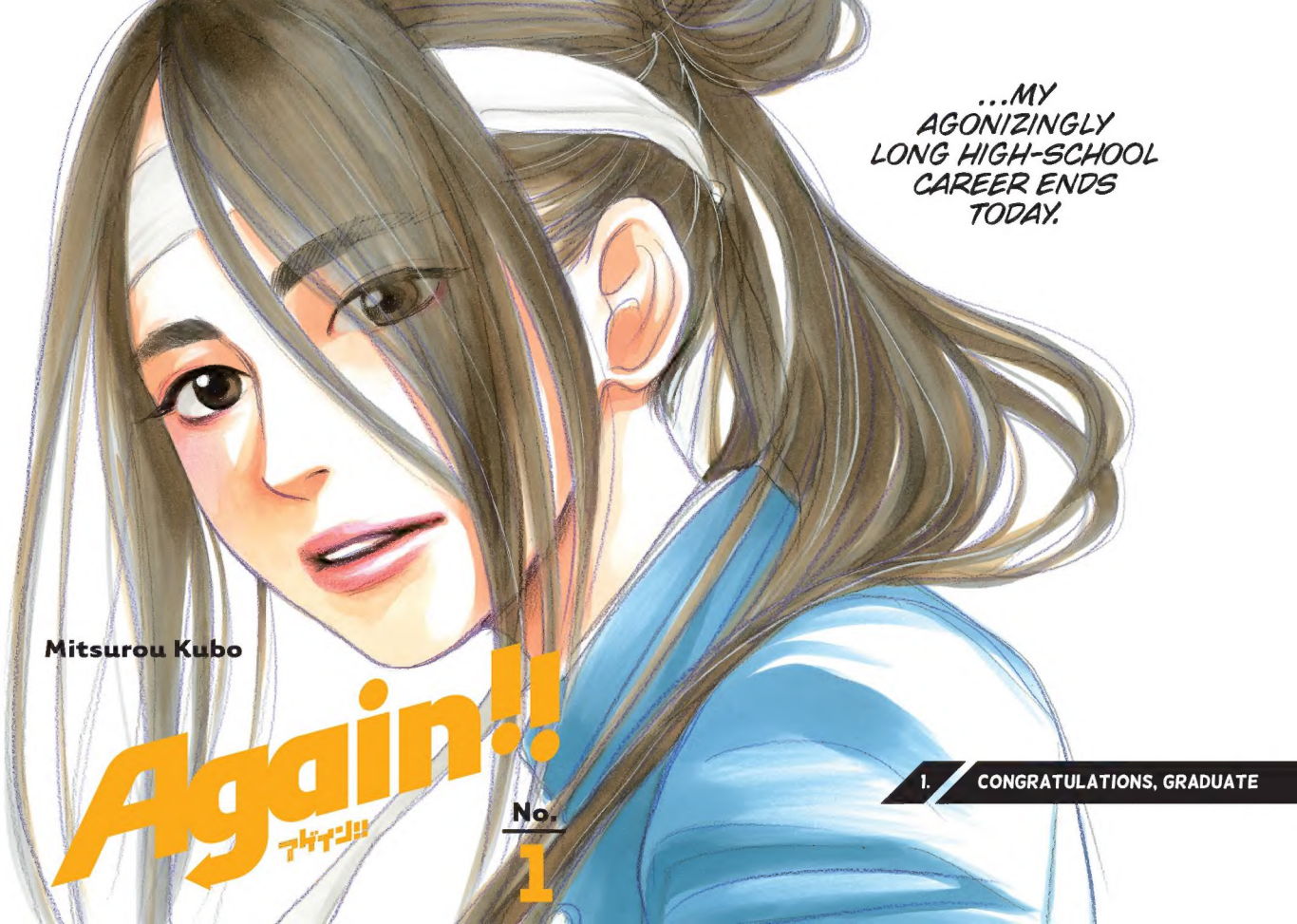
Mitsurou Kubo
Again!!
アゲイン!!
No.
1

WHAT WOULD THINGS BE LIKE IF I HAD ACCEPTED HER OFFER?
EVEN NOW, THREE YEARS LATER, I STILL THINK ABOUT HER SOME-TIMES.
BESIDES...
NO, IT'S TOO LATE.
THEN AGAIN... DOES IT REALLY MATTER ANYMORE?



Mitsurou Kubo

Again!!

アゲイン!!

No. 1

1. CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE

contents

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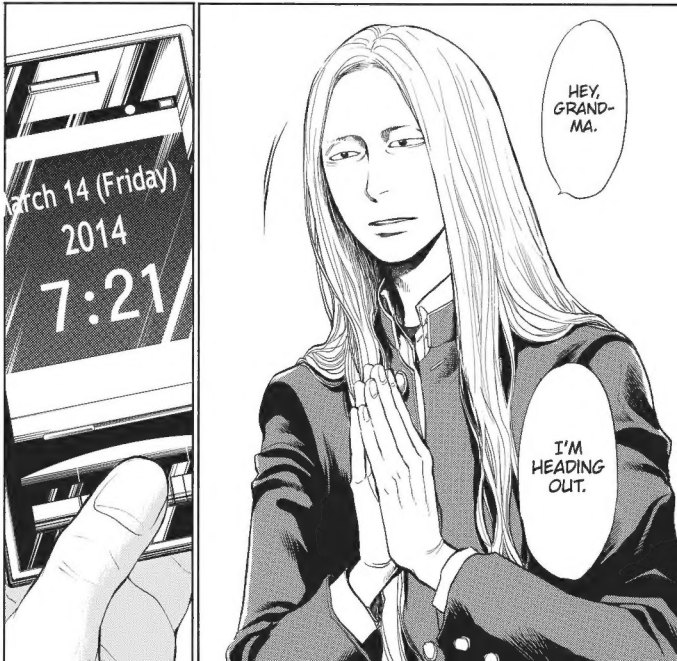
KIN-CHAAAN!
TIME TO GET UP!
YOU'VE GOTTA GO TO YOUR GRADUATION!
YOU WOULDN'T WANNA BE LATE, NOW WOULD YOU?
I'M NOT GOING.
SNIF.
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT.
YOU HAVE TO GO TODAY.
IT'S YOUR LAST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL EVER!
DON'T YOU WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO ALL YOUR TEACHERS AND FRIENDS?
YOU CAN GET THEM TO SIGN YOUR GRADUATION YEARBOOK.
AND MAYBE THERE'S A GIRL THERE WHO WANTS THE SECOND BUTTON OF YOUR BLAZER.
THERE IS, ISN'T THERE?
NO.
NO?
MAYBE THERE IS, THOUGH.
SORRY I CAN'T MAKE YOUR GRADUATION, SWEETIE.
ANYWAY, I'VE GOTTA GET TO WORK.
PO-PO-PA-PA
LIGHT A STICK OF INCENSE FOR GRANDMA ON YOUR WAY OUT, TOO.
NOW EAT SOME BREAKFAST AND GET YOUR BUTT TO SCHOOL.
BYE!
CLICK
CLOSE

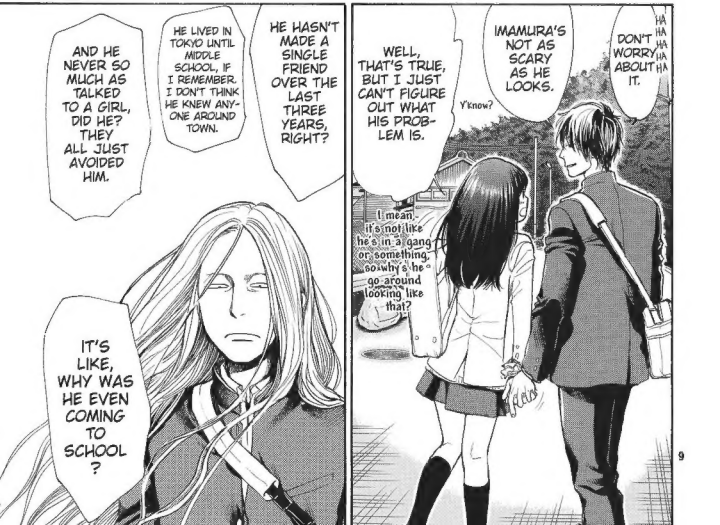
チーン
ding

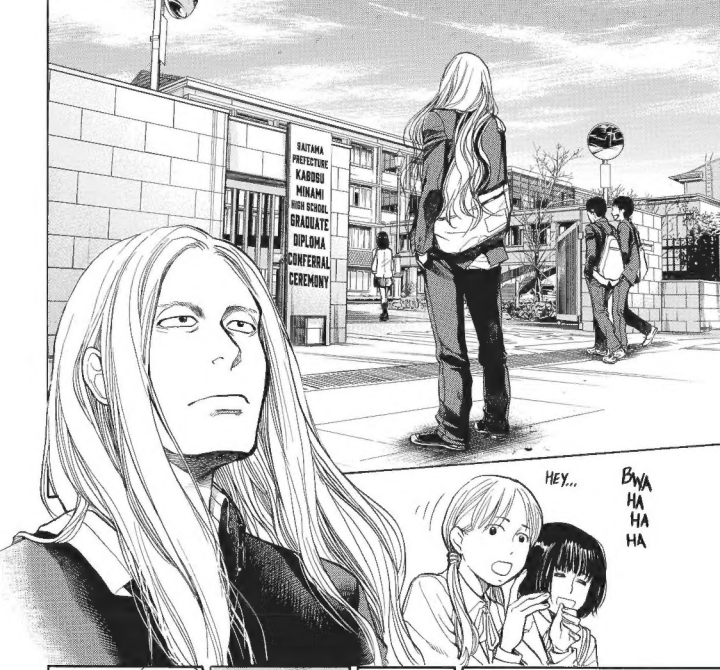

arch 14 (Friday)
2014
7:21
HEY, GRAND-MA.
I'M HEADING OUT.

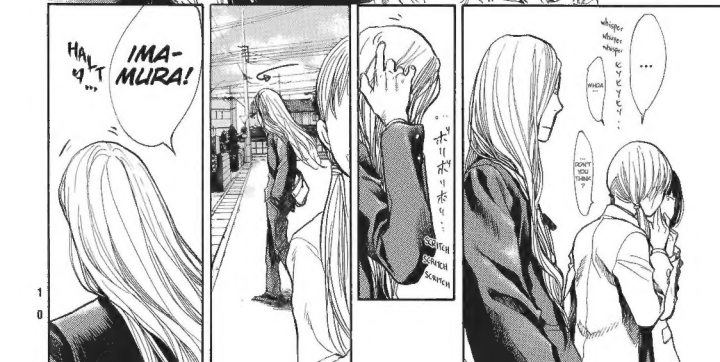
BRR!
HWOOOO
NAO-KUN HASN'T BEEN HIMSELF SINCE POCHI DIED.
HIS TEACHER CALLED AND SOUNDED REALLY WORRIED, TOO.
HEY, NAO. WANT YOUR OLD MAN TO TAKE YOU TO SCHOOL?
はっ
はっ
SHUF
スッ
SHUF
スッ
SHUF
...
Oh! It's that blond guy.

IT'S IMAMURA-SAN'S SON.
HE'S GOT SOME NERVE, DOESN'T HE? GOING TO SCHOOL LIKE THAT.
THAT GUY'S NOSE IS RUNNING.
NAO'S ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF HIM, TOO.
IT MAKES ME UNCOMFORT-ABLE. WHERE ARE THE TEACHERS?
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
SHH!
EEK!
THUUUNK
PLONK
むくっ…
OWWW…

ZOOM!
FWAP
CRAP!
...
GAH!
IMAMURA!
AGGGH, THAT WAS CLOSE!
I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA KILL ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AKI?
WE'VE NEVER EVEN TALKED BEFORE, BUT I JUST SAID HIS NAME WITHOUT THINKING!
SHAKE
SHAKE


HE HASN'T MADE A SINGLE FRIEND OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, RIGHT?
HE LIVED IN TOKYO UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL, IF I REMEMBER. I DON'T THINK HE KNEW ANYONE AROUND TOWN.
AND HE NEVER SO MUCH AS TALKED TO A GIRL, DID HE? THEY ALL JUST AVOIDED HIM.
IT'S LIKE, WHY WAS HE EVEN COMING TO SCHOOL?
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT HIS PROBLEM IS.
IMAMURA'S NOT AS SCARY AS HE LOOKS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HA HA HA HA HA
Y'know?
I mean, it's not like he's in a gang or something, so why's he go around looking like that?


SAITAMA PREFECTURE KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE DIPLOMA CONFERRAL CEREMONY
HEY...
BWA HA HA HA


HALT!!...
IMA-MURA!
...ポリポリポリ...
SCRITCH SCRATCH SCRITCH
WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER
...
KYUUUU...
MADA...
DON'T YOU THINK?

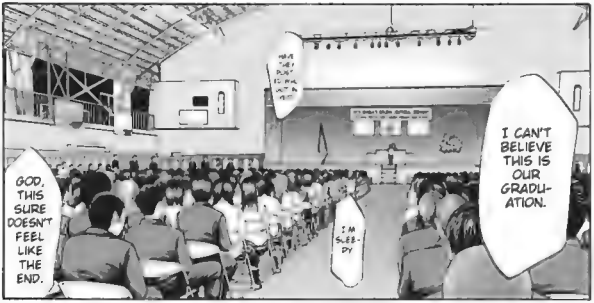
YOU'RE BEING DISRUPTIVE.
YOU REALLY CAME TO YOUR GRADUATION WITH YOUR HAIR LOOKING LIKE THAT? IT'S A MESS.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
...
KITAJIMA-SENSEI.
...
A LOT OF PARENTS ARE GOING TO SHOW UP TODAY.
YOU'RE GONNA STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
...
FWIP

BOY, IMAMURA, YOU SURE HAVE GOTTEN BIG SINCE YOU FIRST STARTED COMING HERE.
IF ONLY YOU'D JOINED A SPORTS CLUB OR SOMETHING. WHAT A WASTE!
HEY!
MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE. I LIKE IT!
HOW ABOUT NOW?
PWINK
CLAP CLAP
ハシ
ハシ
キュッ

WASN'T THERE AT LEAST ONE THAT YOU WANTED TO TRY?

NOPE.
I...
...WAS NEVER PARTIC-ULARLY INTEREST-ED IN ANY OF THAT.
PAT
ポン
ポン
PAT
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
WELL, YOU'VE WORKED HARD THESE LAST THREE YEARS.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, GRADUATE.

Diploma
SACHIKO SAKURAI
BORN FEBRUARY 9, 1996
MARCH 14, 2014
GRADUATE


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS OUR GRADUATION.
I'M SLEEPY.
GOD, THIS SURE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE END.

AAWWW, I WISH I TOLD NOJIMA-KUN I LIKED HIM... THIS SUCKS ...
THIRD YEAR, CLASS C.
I GAVE UP ON THE SOCCER CLUB, SO I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY KOHAI.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS, MAN. OUR SENPAI SUCKED ASS.
THIRD YEAR, CLASS D.
GET HIM TO GIVE YOU HIS SECOND BUTTON. THERE'S STILL TIME!
MASAHIRO ARITA
HERE
AGGGH!
I NEVER EVEN GOT A GIRLFRIEND.
KIN-ICHIRO IMAMURA.

HE DIDN'T APPLY TO COLLEGE, RIGHT?
WHERE'S IMAMURA GOING FROM HERE?
It's just too obvious.
I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF A PUNCH-LINE FOR THAT.
HEY, THE FIRST CHARACTER IN "KINICHIRO" MEANS GOLD, AND HE HAS GOLD HAIR ...
GATTER
... HERE.
GRADUATING FROM THIS SCHOOL WITHOUT ANY PLANS ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT? LIKE, NO ONE DOES THAT!
DAMN
WHAT'S HE EVEN WANT TO DO?
FOR REAL?
...HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A JOB LINED UP.
ACCORDING TO OUR TEACHER ...
I MEAN, NOT THAT I CARE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FRIENDS WITH HIM.
HARSH! HAHA

CROWD
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
... HEY.
C'MON, GET DOWN.
11°
RUSH
OH, YEAH ...

HIGH GRADUATE DIPLOMA CONFERRAL CEREMONY
SAITAMA PREFECTURE KAWAGUCHIWAKU HIGH SCHOOL
AND NOW, THE SCHOOL SONG.
THREE YEARS AGO, AT MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY ...
... THAT GIRL SANG THE SCHOOL SONG ON STAGE.
SHE WAS SO DAMN LOUD.

WHAT DID SHE LOOK LIKE, AGAIN?
LET'S TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER!
YAY!
LET ME IN ON THIS!
I THINK...
THE OUENDAN'S CLUB ROOM WAS AROUND HERE.
OUR SCHOOL HAD AN OUENDAN UNTIL MY FIRST YEAR HERE.
I ONLY EVER GOT TO SEE THEM AT MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

I HEAR NOT A SINGLE PERSON IN MY YEAR JOINED THE CLUB
AND THAT'S WHY IT'S GONE NOW.
THERE'S AN OLD BUILDING OF THE SCHOOL'S WHERE THEIR FORMER CLUB ROOM STILL REMA... AND-WELL, IT REMAINS.
I'D HAVE TO KNOW SOMEONE TO KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT
ENTER
CREAK
IT'S UN-LOCKED
HEY!
DO NOT ENTER
CLAK
CLAK

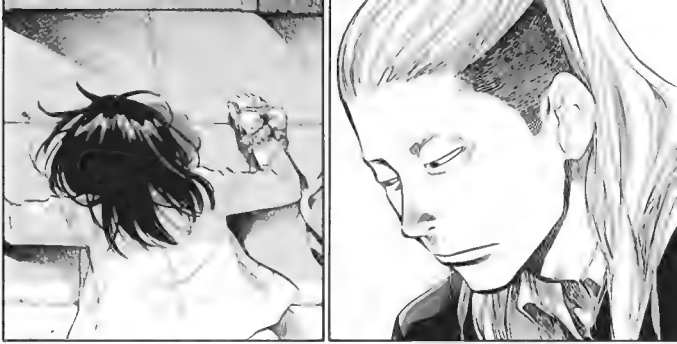
OUENDAN
THERE IT IS!
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
HEY, THERE ARE OTHER CLUBS IN HERE, TOO.
LET'S SEE ...
SCHOOL WORKING GROUP
OUENDAN
...
OUENDAN
GACK GACK
KACHACK
DAMN ...
LOCKED, HUH ...
...

HUP!
OKAY.
ガラッ
SLAP
HRGH!
HRGH!
THUNK
KKTHUNK
...
I'D LIKE ...
...TO SEE IT ONE LAST TIME.
HIRO-KUN,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LITERATURE CLUB

WAIT ...
?!
I– I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING!
SNUF
ズ"
ズ:
I'M JUST TRYING TO MEET UP WITH MY BOY-FRIEND ....
JUST, PRETEND I'M NOT HERE ... Y'KNOW ...
I PROMISE I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS ...
HEY.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
I'm you see
ズ"
ズ"
SHUF SHUF..
YOU'RE ...
FROM THIS MOR-NING ...

PERVEEERT!
JUMP
HEY, WAIT!
AGH!
QUIT TRYING TO RUN!
THMP
TURN
WAIT UP! GOD!
NOOOOOOOOO

EEP!
SILENCE
?
HEY ...
DID YOU FALL DOWN?
WHOA. ARE YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU STAND UP? HEY ...
HEEEY!
C'MON, ANSWER ME!



HEY!!
?!
TUNK
TUNK
TMP
TMP
TMP

THWUNK
AGGGGGH...

LOOK AT ME.
DAMN IT. JUST...
NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES OF ME TRYING TO SOCIALIZE.
I KNEW IT.
AGGGH...
EVERY-ONE...
WE WOULDN'T HAVE LOST IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU.
THIS IS WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS.
NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES OF HAVING YOU AROUND, IMAMURA.
DON'T WORRY, KIN-CHAN. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU.
WE TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO SCHOOL.
WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN?

EVERYONE...
I'M SO SORRY.
...CHAN.
KIN-CHAN, TIME TO GET UP!
YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
ぱっ
SNAP
OH.

WHAT THE? AM I DREAMING?
NOW, HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR BREAKFAST.
IT'S LEFTOVER CURRY FROM LAST NIGHT.
WE DIDN'T HAVE CURRY LAST NIGHT.
OH!
I'LL GET YOU SOME MISO SOUP, MOM.
WANT ANY PICKLED VEGETABLES?
GRANDMA?
?
WAIT, YOU MUST JUST LOOK LIKE HER, RIGHT?
DAMN, THOUGH! YOU SCARED ME!
HUH?!
KIN-CHAN, HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP?
MOM...
HAVE YOU GAINED WEIGHT?
I'VE LOST THAT'S WEIGHT RUDE! RECENTLY, FOR YOUR INFORMATION!
YOU DEFINITELY GAINED WEIGHT.
WHATEVER! JUST GET YOUR BUTT TO SCHOOL.
HUH?
WHY SHOULD I GO TO SCHOOL?

YOU WOULDN'T WANNA BE LATE ON YOUR FIRST DAY, NOW WOULD YOU?!
WHEN ...
DID I GET MY HAIR CUT?
WHAT ?
UHH ...
...
...
PERHAPS I OUGHT TO ACCOMPANY KIN-CHAN TO HIS ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
HE ...
... COULD BE LONELY ON HIS OWN, DON'T YOU THINK?
UGGGH, COME ON, MOM! KIN-CHAN'S IN HIS FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL NOW.
OH!
IS HE REALLY, NOW?
MY PHONE ...
GOTTA CHECK MY PHONE.
IS THIS DREAM ...

April 6 (Wednesday)
2011
HUH. I GUESS THEY HADN'T BUILT THAT CONVENIENCE STORE YET
...TAKING PLACE THREE YEARS AGO?
...IT'S MORE LIKE I'M RELIVING MY MEMORIES.
IT'S NOT REALLY A DREAM
GUH
YEAH, DAD YOU'RE FAT.
YOU'VE GOTTA LOSE SOME WEIGHT.
YOU SHOULD GO WALK POCHI WITH NAO, DEAR
POCHI
HEY!

SAITAMA PREFECTURE
KABORU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE CEREMONY
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME BACK HERE AGAIN. IT IS JUST A DREAM, THOUGH ...
WELL ...

WHO'S THAT GUY?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING HIM IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, DO YOU?
WHISPER WHISPER
HE'S SCARY.
JUST LIKE ... BACK THEN.

Let's see
... I WALK UP TO THE FRONT GATE, AND ...
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THAT SHOULD MEAN ...

FLINCH
びくっ
WHOA!
くるっ
TWIRL
...KITAJIMA STOPS ME.

OHHH YEAH. I REMEMBER THIS.
... ABOUT THAT BLOND HAIR OF YOURS.
BUT TODAY'S THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY, AND I IMAGINE A PARENT OR TWO MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY...
NOW, IT'S TRUE THAT WE TRY TO FOSTER INDEPENDENCE IN OUR STUDENTS HERE BY NOT BEING TOO STRICT,
IMAMURA.
TELL ME YOUR NAME, SON.
WHAT IS IT?

WHO GIVES A CRAP?
SO?!
THREE YEARS AGO
HE GOT MADDER THAN HE NEEDED TO.
THREE YEARS AGO, I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING FUSSED AT AND FREAKED OUT.
YEAH ...

UHH ...

I'M NOT A DELINQUENT, AND IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SOCIETY OR ANYTHING. I'VE NEVER EVEN GOTTEN VIOLENT WITH ANYONE, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.
It's just fashion i'm not trying to make a statement
OH, BUT I'M NOT BREAKING ANY RULES, AM I?

GLANCE..
チラ…
FLINCH
ビク!!
What's with that bag, buh?
Morning!
Sorry!
I learned that later on.
HE REALLY ISN'T THE TYPE WHO LIKES TO SCOLD PEOPLE, IS HE?
I'M THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR HERE, KITAJIMA.
I GET IT.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SHUF
Step
Step
I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY AVOIDED ME FROM DAY ONE.
EVERYONE AT THIS SCHOOL IS SO NORMAL AND DILIGENT.
ISN'T SHE CUTE?
ヒソ
ヒソ
WHO DO YOU LIKE IN OUR CLASS?
...
AND THAT'S ALL.
I WENT THROUGH THREE YEARS OF THAT.

HIS HOUSE CATCHES ON FIRE.
OH, AND THAT ONE? HMM...
LET'S SEE... I FORGOT THAT ONE'S NAME, BUT THINGS DIDN'T GO WELL FOR HER ONCE SHE GAINED FIFTEEN KILOS.
AND THERE'S SATO. SHE WAS THE QUIETEST AND MOST HARD-WORKING STUDENT IN OUR YEAR, BUT SHE FAILED HER UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS WHEN THE COLLEGE STUDENT WHO WAS TUTORING HER DUMPED HER.
THERE'S SUZUKI, THE GUY WHO BROKE HIS KNEE PLAYING BASEBALL FIRST THING AND COULD NEVER GET A GIRLFRIEND.

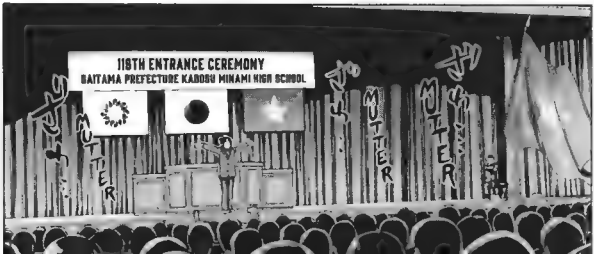
... BUT I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU IDIOTS: IT AIN'T GONNA WORK OUT.
EVERYONE'S SO EXCITED AND HOPEFUL ABOUT STARTING HIGH SCHOOL ...

NEXT, THE SCHOOL SONG.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY GOOD MEMORIES OF THIS PLACE, EITHER!
IF THIS IS A DREAM, THEN LET ME WAKE UP ALREADY!
OOOOWWWW...

AND NOW,
WE PRESENT A WELCOMING CHEER FROM THE OUENDAN FOR OUR NEW STUDENTS.
I CAN...
...MEET HER.
ばっ
FWIP
SHF
THAT'S RIGHT.

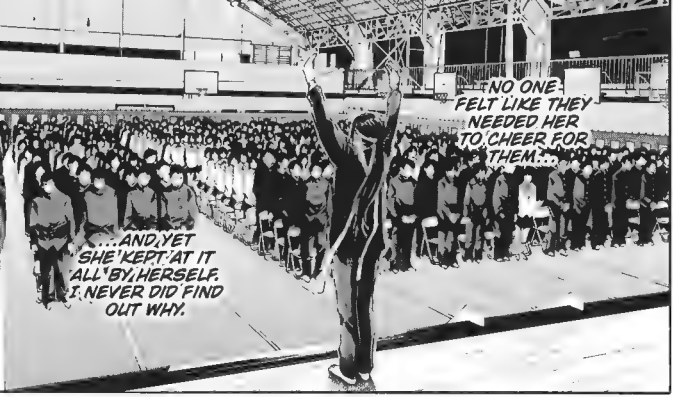
BA-DUMP!
THE HELL?
HUH?
A GIRL?

GENTH
Tiwoo


118TH ENTRANCE CEREMONY
SAITAMA PREFECTURE KAHOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
LET THE FIGHT SONG BEGIN!
THE CHERRRRY TREES BEGIIN TO BLOOM
AND THEIR SCEEENT IS ON THE WIIND

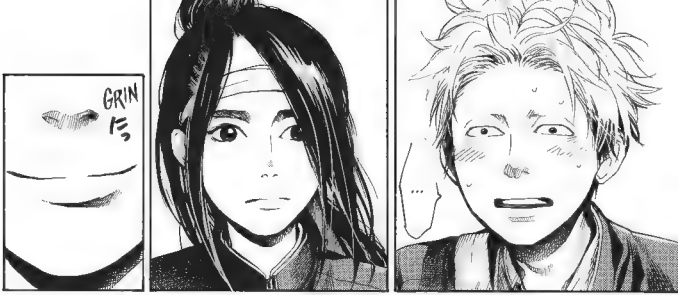
WHEN THE WIIINGS OF FREEEDOM
MAY TAKE AY
FLIIIGHT
OHHH MAY TRUTH AND LOVE UNITE AS ONE
WHISH!
WHISH!
FOR REAL.
I FEEL EMBARRASSED JUST WATCHING.
GOD ...
WHY IS THE CAPTAIN A GIRL?
I DIDN'T KNOW THIS SCHOOL HAD AN OUENDAN.
JEEZ, WHAT A VOICE ...
WATCHING SOMEONE GO WAY OVER THE TOP ALL ON THEIR OWN LIKE THAT...
...IS PAINFUL.
NO ONE HAS AN OUENDAN THESE DAYS.
THREE YEARS AGO...
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.
NO ONE TAKES THE SCHOOL SONG SERIOUSLY,
SO IT SEEMED RIDICULOUS TO GO UP ON STAGE AND SING IT AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS.

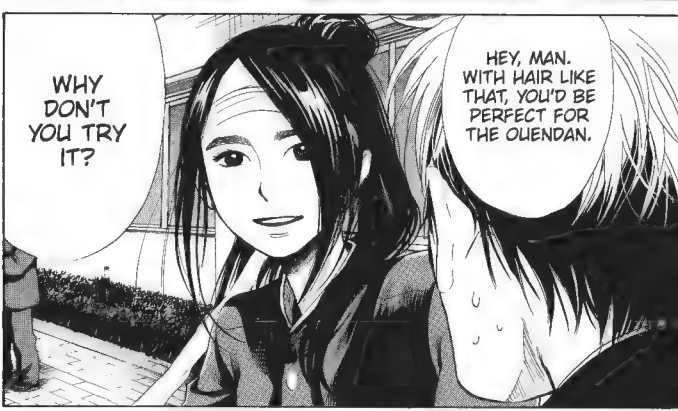

NO ONE FELT LIKE THEY NEEDED HER TO CHEER FOR THEM...
...AND YET SHE KEPT AT IT ALL BY HERSELF. I NEVER DID FIND OUT WHY.

SINCE SHE WAS...
...THE OUENDAN'S LAST CAPTAIN.

COME CHECK OUT THE SOCCER CLUB!
SOCCER CLUB
ARTS CRAFT CLUB
HEY, YOU. HOW ABOUT IT?
EVERY-ONE IN OUR CLUB IS REAL CLOSE.

IF I'VE GONE BACK TO THAT TIME THREE YEARS AGO...
IF SHE'S GOING TO TALK TO ME AGAIN...
THERE'S SOMETHING...
...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK HER.


GRIN
...


HEY, MAN. WITH HAIR LIKE THAT, YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THE OUENDAN.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?

JUST LIKE THREE YEARS AGO!
HEY, MAN. WITH HAIR LIKE THAT, YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THE OUENDAN.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?
UH ...
BACK THEN...
...I JUST PANICKED AND RAN AWAY, THOUGH.

SHE
I WONDER ...
...
...IT IS FUN TO BE IN THE OUENDAN?
...

?!
GRAB
OF COURSE IT'S FUN.
UH...
YOU WANT TO JOIN, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE A MAN OF YOUR WORD, RIGHT?
NO... I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW...
THAT'S ONE NEW MEMBER IN THE BAG!!
HEY!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?!
GLOMP
IF YOU'RE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, NOW'S THE TIME TO SAY IT!
?!
HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
SOMEBODY STOP HIM.
MUTTER
?
Whoa...
FOR REAL?
MUTTER
MUTTER

OHHH GODDD! CALM DOWN, KINICHIRO! CALM DOWN!
YOU'RE DREAM-ING!
SO...
THAT SAID, I SURE AM TAKING MY DAMN TIME ABOUT WAKING UP.
HMM?
...
...RA!
IMA-MURA!
HEY!
IMA-MURA!!
THAT VOICE ...
WHOSE IS IT?
GRAB
I SAID HEY! IMA-MURA!

GOD ...
GOOD JOB PUSHING ME DOWN THE STAIRS.
AGGGGGH!
JERK
YOU'RE ALIVE!
WAIT, NO! I DIDN'T PUSH YOU!
THAT FALL WAS ALL YOUR-
WAIT ...
HUH ?!
WE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS? THAT WASN'T A DREAM ?
WELL, DUH!
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!
I fell down the stairs straight onto my face!
It hurt was both, and I broke my head open!
SO ...
IT WASN'T A DREAM.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THIS?
THANKS TO YOU ...
...WE'VE GONE BACK IN TIME THREE YEARS!
BECAUSE OF ME...
...WE'VE GONE BACK IN TIME?!
2011
NO NO NO NO NO ...
THIS ...
...MUST BE PART OF THE DREAM, RIGHT?
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
STUPID, STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!
I'D LIKE TO WAKE UP, TOO, Y'KNOW!

HEY.
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY NEW MEMBER, YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.
EXCUSE ME? JUST WHO ARE YOU?
ME?
I SUPPOSE I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF, HUH?

I'M THE CAPTAIN OF KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN,
YOSHIKO USAMI.
SO, NEW GUY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME, AND WHAT CLASS ARE YOU IN?

NO FRIENDS, NO CLUBS, NO NOTHING.
THAT WAS HIGH SCHOOL FOR ME, BUT...
I'M KINICHIRO IMAMURA.
I'M IN CLASS 1-C...
NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?!

Again!!
アゲイン!!

2.
AKI'S SITUATION

SAITAMA PREFECTURE KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE DIPLOMA CONFERRAL CEREMONY
MARCH 14, 2014
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M GRADUATING TODAY!
I WANNA STAY WITH YOU GUYS FOREVER!
AWW!
YOU'RE GOING OVER-BOARD WITH THE CRYING, AKI.
BUT!
OHHH!
YUNA! RUMI-RUMI! ERENA!
I LOVE YOU ALL! THE TENNIS CLUB IS YOURS NOW!
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
OH...
OKAY.
I ALWAYS LOVED YOU, AKI-SENPAI!
COME VISIT US AT THE TENNIS CLUB ONCE IN A WHILE, OKAY?
OH, AKI-SENPAI!
SEN-PAI!

MY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER ENDS TODAY.
IT SEEMED TO TAKE FOREVER, BUT NOW IT FEELS LIKE IT PASSED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
HIRO-KUN...
きゅん...
THROB...
Inbox
11:04
Let's meet up
Wait for me in the west building
-END-
MENU
SELECT
REPLY
I GUESS THAT MEANS I CAN GET MY HOPES UP.
WHAT A PLACE TO MEET UP. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HIRO-KUN!
?
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
LITERATURE CLUB
PEEK
ぴょこっ
HUH? HE'S ALREADY HERE?
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

?!
YOU'RE ...
FROM THIS MORNING ...
IMAMURA ?!
HE'S SCARY-LOOKING, BLEACHES HIS HAIR BLOND, AND IS A TOTAL OUTCAST.
WHAT'S HE EVEN DOING, TRYING TO BREAK INTO AN EMPTY CLUB ROOM?
THIS SCHOOL IS TRASH!
I'LL BURN IT DOWN!
I'LL STEAL SHIT!
I'LL RAPE HER!
...
PERVEEEERT!
TWIRL
DASH!!
HEY, WAIT!

HUH ?!
OUCH ...
THIS HURTS SO BAD I COULD DIE.
WHAT THE HELL? NOT COOL.
THIS SUCKS...

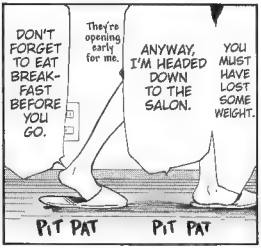
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
JOLT

CHIRP
CHIRP
...
HUH?
I WAS DREAMING?
DRIP
DRIP

I FEEL LIKE I HAD SOME KIND OF NIGHTMARE, BUT WHAT WAS IT?
AKI!
BREAKFAST IS READY! TIME TO GET UP!
OKAY!
GUH...
I THINK I'LL TAKE A SHOWER FIRST.
I CAN'T...
SLIDE
...REALLY REMEMBER.
SHMP
バタム...
WHAT'S WRONG?
AKI?!
BAM
ドンドンドン
BAM
BAM
...
ギャあ
GAAAAH!
あぁ
?!

MY BOOBS GOT SMALLER ?!
WHY ?!

WELL, I'LL SEE YOU AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY!
ガラ SLIDE
?!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, MOM?
バタムッ CLICK


DON'T FORGET TO EAT BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU GO.
They're opening early for me.
ANYWAY, I'M HEADED DOWN TO THE SALON.
YOU MUST HAVE LOST SOME WEIGHT.
PIT PAT
PIT PAT

APRIL 201
WAIT ...
WHAT DAY IS IT ?
1
7
8

ほかぁ...

OH ...
LET'S SEE ...
I GUESS I... HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL ?
Yuh. I don't remember shutting my hair this smart

CLAT
CLAT CLAT CLAT
I'LL BE LATE TO MEET UP WITH HIRO-KUN!
ACK!
LOOK AT THE TIME!
WHERE'S THAT SCRUNCHIE I BOUGHT THE OTHER DAY? I REALLY LIKED IT.
HUH?
She can be such a dork
GOD ...
WHY'D MOM PUT UP A CALENDAR FROM THREE YEARS AGO?
THERE HE IS!
HIRO-KUUUN!
WAVE
WAVE
THAT GIRL WHO'S WITH HIRO-KUN...
HUH?

BEATS ME.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
OKAY.
SO WHAT ARE THEY DOING TOGETHER NOW?!
THEY WENT OUT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BROKEN UP DURING OUR FIRST YEAR!
SHE'S HIS EX!
じぇらっ
WHO'S THAT?
WHAT THE HELL?
EXCUSE ME?
I GRADUATED, DIDN'T I?
HUH?
WAIT...
HMM?
ASS-HOLE!
ガばっ
COLLAPSE
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE IN TOKYO AND BE TOGETHER FOREVER!

I REMEMBER NOW.
I WAS AT MY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.
SAITAMA PREFECTURE KABUSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY
MORNING, AKI.
WE GET TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS AGAIN, JUST LIKE MIDDLE SCHOOL! PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?
WHAT CLUB ARE YOU GONNA JOIN, AKI?
SINCE WE GOT INTO A GOOD SCHOOL AND ALL, I'D LIKE TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
2cm
20/15 VISION (GLASSES)
20/30 VISION (CONTACTS)
SO...
A-CUP
B-CUP
THREE YEARS AGO
WHY HAS EVERYTHING, INCLUDING MY BODY, GONE BACK TO HOW IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO?

HERE.
AYANO HIRATA.
HERE.
YUKIKO HANAI.
NOW I CAN DO HIGH SCHOOL ALL OVER AGAIN!
OH WELL.
AKIRA FUJIEDA.
HERE!

PONDERING
CLATTER
I THINK I'LL GO PAY HIRO-KUN A VISIT!

HE IS THE ONE WHO LIKED ME FIRST, AFTER ALL.
AND HIRO-KUN SHOULD BE BREAKING UP WITH THAT EX OF HIS BEFORE TOO LONG.
AGH, I WANNA GO ON A BUNCH OF DATES ALREADY!

THESE FIRST-YEAR CLASSES WILL BE A PIECE OF CAKE,
SO I CAN JUST HAVE FUN!

MAYBE I'LL EVEN BECOME FAMOUS FOR MY ABILITY TO TELL THE FUTURE OR SOMETHING.
Wow! She got another one right!!
How's she know this stuff?

OH YEAH.
IT'S TOO BAD THEY BROKE UP SO SOON.
IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO GET SICK OF THEM, THOUGH, SINCE ALL THEIR SONGS SORT OF SOUND THE SAME.
AH HA HA HA HA HA! MAYBE I'LL GIVE THEM A LISTEN FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, THOUGH! WHAT A TRIP!
CARA
MANA

I HAD SO MANY GREAT FRIENDS MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. THEY HAD ME LAUGHING MY ASS OFF EVERY SINGLE DAY.

FLINCH
びくっ
HIRO-KUN!
NOW...
I GET TO EXPERIENCE IT ALL AGAIN.
WHAT?
HEY! LET'S WALK HOME TO-GETH-ER!
WE CAN STOP SOME-WHERE FOR TEA, TOO!
...WHAT? YOU'RE BEING REALLY WEIRD.
DON'T JUST CALL ME HIRO-KUN OUT OF NO-WHERE.
WHO EVEN ARE YOU, ANY-WAY?
I'M AKIRA FUJI-EDA!
WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG REALLY WELL.
YOU CREEP ...
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR SOME-THING?
NO, I'M FINE!
YOU USED TO SAY THAT ALL THE TIME, BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO ME.
YOU'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT ME SOON ENOUGH!

DUDE, I HATE GIRLS LIKE YOU.
NEVER TALK TO ME AGAIN.
WHOA!
DAMN...
WHAT'S WITH HER?
WHY...
...IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

HALT ヒロ 007
THAT'S ONE NEW MEMBER IN THE BAG!
THE OUENDAN GOT SOME-BODY.
DAMN, FOR REAL ?!
THAT BLOND GUY ...
WASN'T THAT ...
IMA-MURA!
GOD, GOOD JOB PUSHING ME DOWN THE STAIRS!
?!

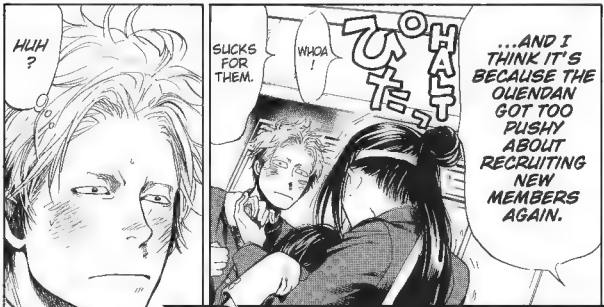
AGGGGGH!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THIS?!
THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE GONE BACK IN TIME THREE YEARS!
FLINCH
びっ
IMA-MURA, YOU'RE ...
FROM THE FUTURE, TOO?
Now that I take a good look at it, his face isn't too bad, either.
トクン
BOUN
WAIT ...
GASP
NO NO NO NO NO ...
HEH...
THIS MUST BE PART OF THE DREAM, RIGHT?
ムカ
GRRR
HEY.
I'D LIKE TO WAKE UP, TOO, Y'KNOW! STUPID, STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!
SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP
スパパパパパ
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY NEW MEMBER, YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.

SO, NEW GUY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME, AND WHAT CLASS ARE YOU IN?
SWOOSH
I'M KINICHIRO IMAMURA.
I'M IN CLASS 1-C...
HOW CAN YOU BE HAVING SO MUCH FUN DOING HIGH SCHOOL OVER AGAIN, IMAMURA?!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVEN HAD ANY FRIENDS! YOU'RE JUST BEING A LITTLE SHIT!
UGH!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
IMAMURA?
HALT

WE ARE NOT FRIENDS!!

I'D LIKE TO WAKE UP, TOO, Y'KNOW! STUPID, STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!
THIS MUST BE PART OF THE DREAM, RIGHT?
NO NO NO NO ...
THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE GONE BACK IN TIME THREE YEARS!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THIS?
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!
WELL, DUH!
WE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS? THAT WASN'T A DREAM?

UH.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING FOR A WHILE NOW...
THAT CUTE GIRL WON'T STOP CRYING AND YELLING. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IS HE IN A GANG?
WHO'S THE BLOND GUY? HE'S SCARY-LOOKING ...
THOSE NEW STUDENTS AREN'T MAKING ANY SENSE.
WHAT ARE THEY GOING ON ABOUT?



3. ULTRA-STRENGTH RECRUITING!

HEY.
WHAT WAS THAT?

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT TO MY FACE.
SNAP!
SHE'S COMING!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
UH-OH!
EEEK!
TOSS

...
I'VE BEEN HOLDING MY TONGUE ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME,
BUT, FRANKLY, THE OUENDAN IS ANNOY-ING AS HELL.
I KNOW ALL THE OTHER CLUBS AGREE WITH ME!
ESPE-CIALLY SINCE YOU BECAME CAPTAIN, USAMI!
WHAT?

WHOA...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US AT OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS?
IT'S JUST EMBAR-RASS-ING.
NONE OF THE SCHOOLS WE PLAY AGAINST EVER HAVE OUENDAN, ANYWAY.
NO ONE EVER ASKED YOU TO CHEER FOR US.
THEY'RE GOING A LITTLE FAR...?

?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M GONNA CHASE YOU DOWN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
AND I'M NOT GONNA STOP UNTIL YOU PUNKS START WINNING!
YOU THINK YOU CAN BLAME ME FOR YOUR LOSSES? NOW THAT'S FUNNY.

YOU NO-GOOD, TUITION-MONEY-WASTING BUNCH OF PATHETIC EXCUSES FOR ATHLETES!
POINT
MARK MY WORDS!
...
HEY!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?
I DON'T WANNA GO ON MY OWN!
WE'LL BE IN THE CLUB ROOM.
OSU!!
BAP!
BAP
LET'S GO, NEW-BIES.
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO

HERE'S WHERE THE OUENDAN'S CLUB ROOM IS.
THEY USE THIS OLD BUILDING ON THE EDGE OF CAMPUS FOR CLUBS NOW.
MOST PEOPLE JUST CALL IT THE WEST BUILDING.

...
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS WHERE...
NOTH-ING ...

I NEVER WISHED I COULD DO HIGH SCHOOL OVER AGAIN...
GET YOUR ASSES UP THOSE STAIRS ALREADY!
NO!
WANNA TRY FALLING DOWN THERE AGAIN?
DRIP DRIP
DON'T KNOW. DON'T CARE.
WHAT...
...IF WE CAN NEVER GO BACK TO OUR OWN TIME?
SOB
...WE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS AND BACK THROUGH TIME.
OLENTAN
RADIO CLUB
BUT...
...I REALLY DIDN'T JOIN ANY CLUBS, DID I?
OKAY...
NOW, ENTER!
WE DON'T HAVE MANY MEMBERS YET, BUT DON'T WORRY.
A TAIKO DRUM...

*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES ABOUT "OSU..." IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK.

WHY AREN'T YOU DOING IT?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS FOR BEING A GIRL. CAN'T YOU SPEAK?
WHAT? HEY, I DON'T EVEN WANNA JOIN THE CLUEN-
NO EX-CUSES!
YOU DO WHAT YOUR SENPAI TELLS YOU TO.
HEH

OH, HEY!
...?
HURK
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, TALKING TO YOUR ELDERS LIKE THAT!
AND I'LL BE 19 IN A MONTH!
I'M ACTUALLY 18, FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
DON'T GET COCKY WITH ME JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE A THIRD YEAR.

USAMI!
YOU GOT SOME NEW MEMBERS, HUH?
TWO WHOLE NEW MEMBERS?

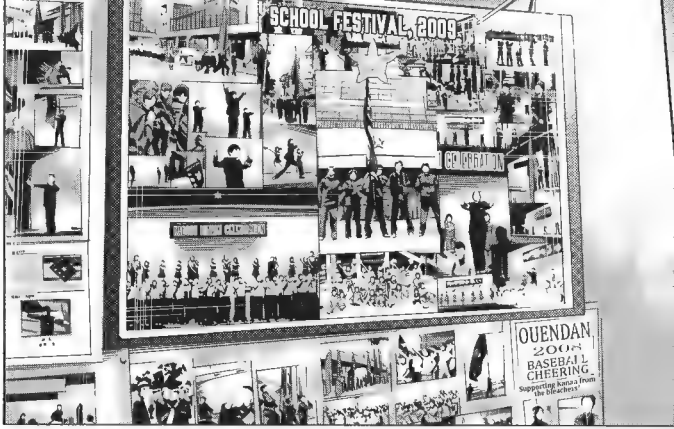
KITAJIMA-SENSEI!
ACK...
SO KITAJIMA WAS THE OUENDAN'S CLUB SPONSOR, HUH?
HEY, IT'S THAT BLOND KID FROM THIS MORNING!
YOU'RE JOINING THE OUENDAN, HUH? GREAT!
WELL, COME ON IN, YOU TWO!
ポン PAT
ポン PAT

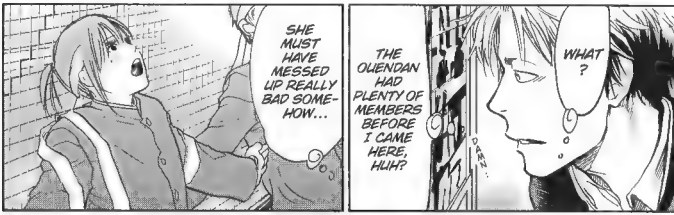
...
...
GRANCE
チラ
HEY!
WAIT!
NO!
I'M NOT JOINING THE OUENDAN, I'M GOING HOME!
じ…
STARE
?!

GAH!
IMA-MURA!
LET'S CHEER TO-GETH-ER!
DASH!!
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES ONE GUY MAKE?
THIS IS THE SAME WORLD IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.

EXHAUSTED
ぐったり…
A/C
I WAS WORRIED, SINCE WE JUST MOVED HERE AND ALL.
THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU CAN HAVE THEM OVER ANYTIME, OKAY?
UHH, YEAH …
HOW WAS SCHOOL? DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?
WELCOME HOME, KIN-CHAN!
I THINK I WANNA FIND A PART-TIME JOB.
NAH. I'M NOT.
ARE YOU JOINING ANY CLUBS?
THE OUENDAN SEEMS LIKE ONE GIANT PAIN IN THE ASS.
BUT…
…IF I DON'T JOIN NOW…

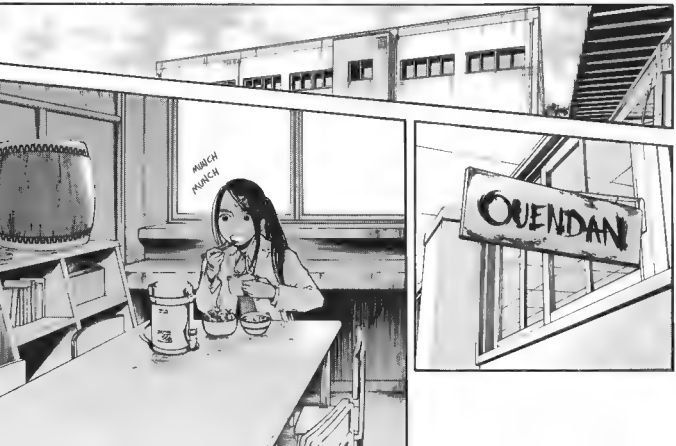
...IT'LL FALL APART.
RADIO CLUB
KIN-CHAAAN!
IT'S MORNING!
JUST AS I FEARED.
I'M NOT DREAMING.
I HAVE TO GET UP...
...GO TO SCHOOL...
...AND SPEND THE DAY ALONE.
EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.
LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER.
CLATTER


SCHOOL FESTIVAL, 2009
GO GREAT !!!
OUENDAN
2008
BASEBALL
CHEERING
Supporting Kanto's from the bleachers!

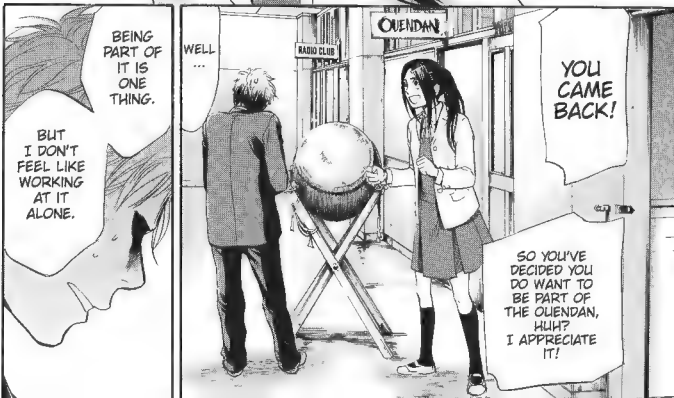

SHE MUST HAVE MESSED UP REALLY BAD SOME-HOW...
THE OUENDAN HAD PLENTY OF MEMBERS BEFORE I CAME HERE, HUH?
WHAT ?

...
I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE HER PERFORM AGAIN, THOUGH ...
THERE'S ME.
IF SHE KEEPS THIS UP, NO ONE WILL WANT TO BE CAUGHT DEAD IN THE OUENDAN.
IT'S GONNA FALL APART.
...BUT NOW I GUESS SHE'S YOUNGER THAN I AM.
IN TERMS OF MENTAL AGE, ANYWAY ...
THREE YEARS AGO, SHE WAS SOME DISTANT SENPAI UP ON STAGE...

THERE'S
ME...


MUNCH
MUNCH
OUENDAN

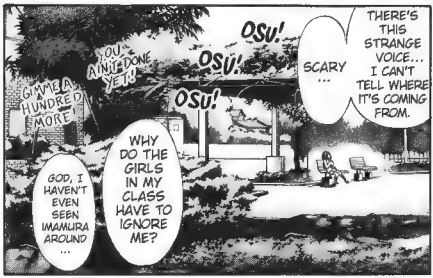
CAPTAIN! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HERE.
GASP
ACK!
...
IMA-MURA?
?!
DUM DUDUM
WHO THE HELL IS MESSING WITH OUR TAIKO DRUMS?!
HEY!
SLIDE


BEING PART OF IT IS ONE THING.
BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE WORKING AT IT ALONE.
WELL ...
RADIO CLUB
OUENDAN
YOU CAME BACK!
SO YOU'VE DECIDED YOU DO WANT TO BE PART OF THE OUENDAN, HUH? I APPRECIATE IT!

SO, LISTEN ...
...WE'VE GOTTA MAKE THE OUENDAN AS BIG AS IT USED TO BE.

IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO YOUR SENPAI ?!
DON'T YOU DARE GET CUTE WITH ME!

S-SORRY ...
FUNNY, THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE, "OSU"!
O-OSU.
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
OSU!
WE'RE GONNA START BY WORKING ON YOUR VOICE PROJEC-TION!


OSU!
OSU!
OSU!
OSU!
OSU!
THERE'S THIS STRANGE VOICE... I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT'S COMING FROM.
SCARY ...
YOU AIN'T DONE YET!
GIMME A HUNDRED MORE!
WHY DO THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS HAVE TO IGNORE ME?
GOD, I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN IMAMURA AROUND ...

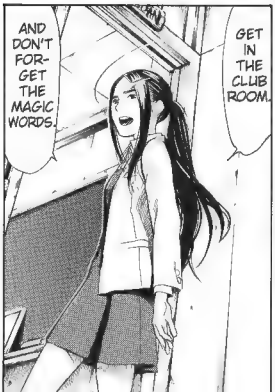
OSU!
OSU!
HUH ?
WHAT'S THAT?

4.
WE NEED YOU!

バターン
50!
49!
48!
47!
THUMP

ぜー
はー
WHEEZE
PANT
...

OKAY.
I'LL LET YOU LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR NOW.
THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE OUENDAN'S ACTUAL TRAINING REGIMEN, THOUGH.


GET IN THE CLUB ROOM.
AND DON'T FORGET THE MAGIC WORDS.

OSU!
FWOO
EX-CUSE ME!
WHEEZ!
PANT
WHEEZ
PANT
THIS IS A LOAD OF CRAP... WHY ME?
すぅ
INHALE...
GOOD!
UGH.
AND DON'T GO FLASHING ME YOUR UNDER-WEAR!
Am I just a dog to you?
GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE, LADY...

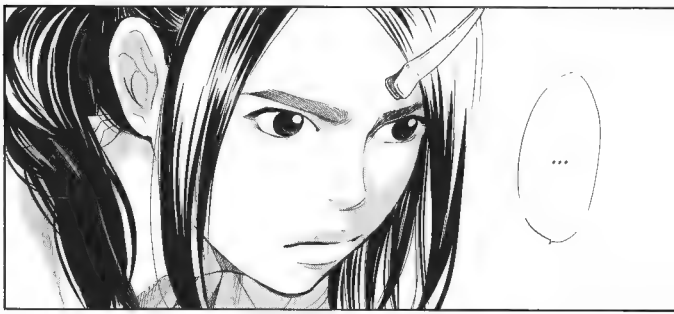
KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN HAS A LONG HISTORY, LONGER THAN ANY OTHER IN THE PREFECTURE.
IS THAT THE WEIGHT OF TRADITION I'M FEELING?
WHOA...
YOU'VE DONE THE RIGHT THING BY COMING BACK.
I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK FOR RUNNING AWAY YESTERDAY.
KATHUNK

SHE'S CUTE UNTIL SHE OPENS HER MOUTH. WHY'D SHE EVEN JOIN THE OUENDAN IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YOU GOT THAT?!
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A STUDENT OF KABOSU MINAMI HIGH.
YOU ARE TO CONDUCT YOURSELF IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T BRING SHAME TO THE OUENDAN. FURTHER...
HEY! IMAMURA!
POINT
OH! YEAH, YEAH.
ARE YOU LISTENING?!
FUNNY, THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE, "OSU!"
SPEAK CLEARLY!
ACT WITH DISCIPLINE AND INTENTION!
YOU ARE TO TRAIN UNTIL THESE THINGS BECOME INSTINCT.
THAT IS WHAT WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO EVERY TIME WE SAY, "OSU!"
OSU-UU...
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
...

DO YOU HAVE ANY MOTIVATION TO BE A REAL MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN?!
OH.
NO, MA'AM.
NOT ONE BIT.
EXCUSE ME?
I'LL BE FRANK. HOW MANY MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW?
ドズ…
THUNK
DON'T SIT WITHOUT ASKING!
CLUB POLICY STATES THAT YOU MAY ONLY SIT WITH THE PERMISSION OF YOUR SENPAI.
WAS THAT GUY HOLDING THE FLAG THE ONLY ONE?
ARE THERE ANY MEMBERS AT LARGE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
Doesn't look like it
CLATTER
I BORROWED MIYAMOTO, THE FLAG-BEARER, FROM THE JUDO CLUB.
OFFICIALLY SPEAKING, I'M THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN, BUT-

WHAT?
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY THE ONLY ONE?
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE MANY MEMBERS, NOT THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY MEMBERS.
I SAW A DISPLAY ABOUT CLUB ACTIVITIES OUT IN THE HALLWAY, AND IT SURE LOOKED LIKE THE OUENDAN HAD PLENTY OF MEMBERS UNTIL LAST YEAR.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHY IS IT JUST YOU NOW?
...
Y-YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW, FIRST-YEAR!
AND WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?!
OHH.
NO, NO.
I'M NOT TRYING TO TEASE.
JUST, WHAT IF NO ONE DECIDES TO JOIN?
I'M TALKING ABOUT AN ABSOLUTE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, Y'KNOW? IT SURE WOULD BE A SHAME IF THE OUENDAN FELL APART OR SOMETHING.
AND IT SEEMS LIKE MAYBE MORE PEOPLE WOULD JOIN IF YOU CHANGED HOW YOU DID THINGS A LITTLE BIT.
SO...

AND I WANNA GET TO SEE YOU CHEERING AGAIN, CAPTAIN.
I DON'T THINK IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE COURSE.
THERE'S STILL TIME.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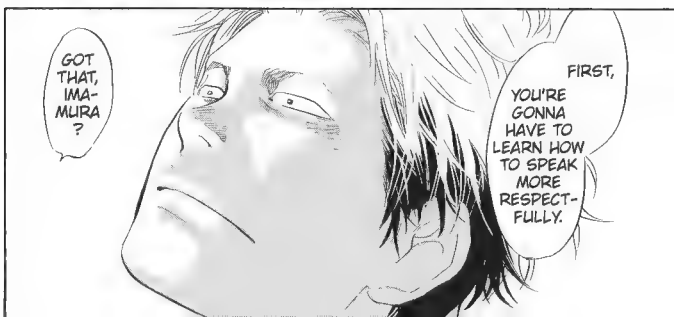
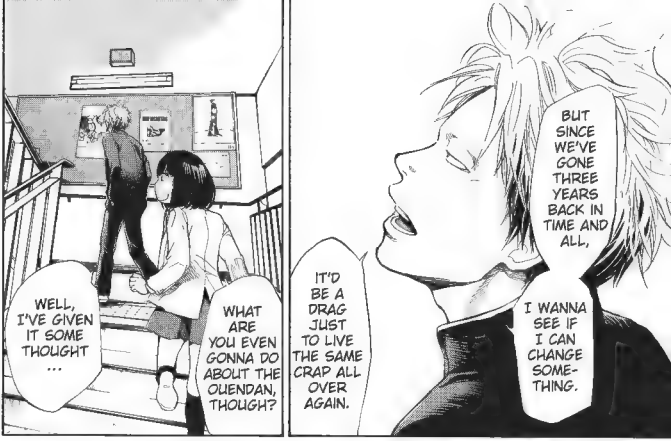

GOT THAT, IMA-MURA ?
FIRST, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO SPEAK MORE RESPECT-FULLY.

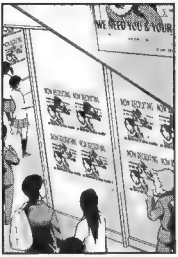
AGH...
OUENDA
OSU!
I THOUGHT THAT WAS SORT OF CUTE, DIDN'T I...
HEY, IMA-MURA!
IT'S IMA-MURA.
OH!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! WHERE WERE YOU?
ヘラ HURR
ヘラ HURR
ヘラ HURR
むかあぁ... URRRRGH.
SO IT'S ALL GOOD JUST 'CAUSE THE CAPTAIN IS CUTE, HUH? IS THAT IT, IMA-MURA?
YOU WERE NEVER EVEN IN A CLUB. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DO THIS?!
NO, NO, NO.
IT'S NOT LIKE ...
...I WANT TO TAKE ON THE MANTLE OF CAPTAIN OR ANY-THING.
WHAT?!
YOU'RE JOINING THE OUENDAN, AFTER ALL?

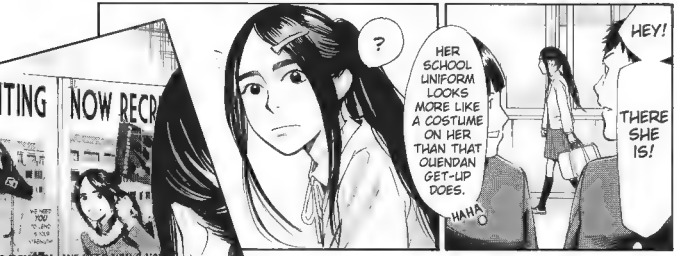

BUT SINCE WE'VE GONE THREE YEARS BACK IN TIME AND ALL,
I WANNA SEE IF I CAN CHANGE SOME-THING.
IT'D BE A DRAG JUST TO LIVE THE SAME CRAP ALL OVER AGAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN GONNA DO ABOUT THE OUENDAN, THOUGH?
WELL, I'VE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT ...

NOW RECRUITING
IF YOU FEEL A CALLING, CONTACT US IN CLASS
THE CAPTAIN HAS SUCH A PRETTY FACE, Y'KNOW ?
IF SHE JUST PLAYED IT UP AND SOLD HERSELF AS A SCHOOL CELEB-RITY, I BET SHE'D GET LOADS OF NEW MEMBERS.
WAIT... BUT THE CHEER-LEAD-ERS--
BESIDES, SHE'D LOOK BETTER IN A CHEER-LEADING OUTFIT THAN A BOY'S UNI-FORM ANY DAY.
...
NOW RECRUITING
IF YOU FEEL A CALLING, CONTACT US IN CLASS 1-A
RARRR
ALL RIGHT !
LET'S PUT OPERATION CELEBRITY INTO ACTION!
?!

NOW RECRUITING
NOW RECRUITING
NOW RECRUITING
BAM!!
バン!!

OH YEAH. THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF THAT CAPTAIN OF THEIRS.
THE OUEN-DAN?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?




?
HER SCHOOL UNIFORM LOOKS MORE LIKE A COSTUME ON HER THAN THAT OUENDAN GET-UP DOES.
HAHA
HEY!
THERE SHE IS!

KITAJIMA-SENSEI, WOULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THESE POSTERS TO ME?!
NEW RECRUITING
WE NEED YOU & YOUR POWER!
HI THERE, USAMI.
OH, YOU TORE THE POSTERS DOWN, HUH? THAT'S A SHAME.
IMAMURA DID THIS?
I WAS PRETTY IMPRESSED. HE SAT RIGHT DOWN AT THE COMPUTER AND WHIPPED UP A POSTER ON THE SPOT. THAT BOY'S GOT SOME SKILLS!
Whoa! You're fast!
IMAMURA CAME TO ME DURING BREAK SAYING HE WANTED A PICTURE OF YOU TO MAKE THEM WITH.
PERSONALLY, I DO THINK IT'S CUTE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
...
CRUMPLE

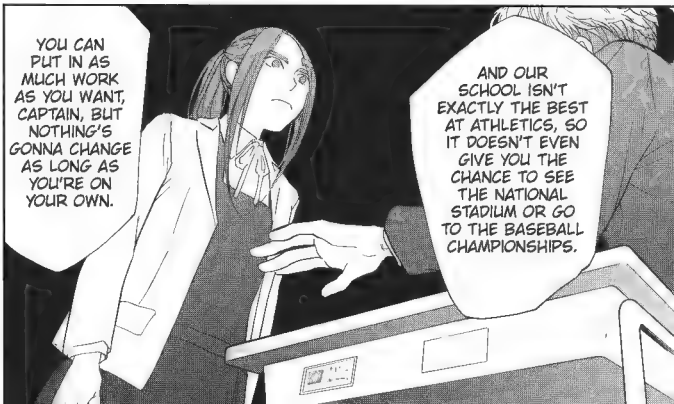
I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE. EVEN JUST A DAY OF ADVERTISING WILL HELP WORD GET AROUND. IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
GREAT, THANKS.
THEY MIGHT NOT STAY UP LONG, THOUGH, SINCE YOU DIDN'T GET PERMISSION TO POST THEM.
BUT I PUT THEM ALL UP!
FWUMP
THAT WAS EXHAUSTING!

WITH HOW BOSSY THE CAPTAIN IS, I'M SURE SHE CAN SCARE ONE OR TWO OF THEM INTO STICKING AROUND.
AND Y'KNOW WHAT ELSE? I WAS THINKING, AND I REMEMBERED HOW MANY DORKS SPENT THEIR THREE YEARS IN THOSE DULL-ASS CULTURAL CLUBS, OR JUST HANGING AROUND WITH THEIR PALS. WE SHOULD TRY TO GET ALL OF THEM ON BOARD.

CAPTAIN.
IMAMURA.
カニ
SLIDE
ISN'T THERE ANYONE YOU COULD INVITE TO JOIN THE OLIEN-DAN?
FUJIEDA, YOU HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS, DON'T YOU?
FLINCH
UH...
OH YEAH...

I MEAN, PEOPLE AREN'T REALLY INTERESTED IN THE OUENDAN THESE DAYS, 'CAUSE THEY THINK IT'S TOO OLD-FASHIONED OR HARDCORE, RIGHT?
ISN'T IT GREAT?
EXPLAIN.
LOOK AT THIS.
NOW RECRUITING

EVIDENTLY, NOBODY.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT CAN HELP YOU GET INTO COLLEGE, EITHER, SO WHO'D WANNA JOIN JUST TO GET PUT THROUGH BOOT CAMP?


YOU CAN PUT IN AS MUCH WORK AS YOU WANT, CAPTAIN, BUT NOTHING'S GONNA CHANGE AS LONG AS YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
AND OUR SCHOOL ISN'T EXACTLY THE BEST AT ATHLETICS, SO IT DOESN'T EVEN GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO SEE THE NATIONAL STADIUM OR GO TO THE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

THAT'S WHAT GOT ME THINKING: YOU SHOULD MAKE THE OUENDAN SEEM MORE FUN, AND TURN HAVING A GIRL CAPTAIN INTO A SELLING POINT.
DRIP
OH!
AND I WAS SAYING EARLIER, INSTEAD OF THAT BOY'S UNIFORM,
WHY DON'T YOU WEAR A CHEER-LEADING OUTFIT?
DRIP
THAT WOULD GO OVER WAY BET-

WHAT-EVER.
NEVER SET FOOT IN MY CLUB ROOM AGAIN.
HUH?

WELP...
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
OH, GOD! ARE YOU THAT OBLIVIOUS?
OF COURSE, I MEAN, YOU ARE RIGHT, IMAMURA.
MAYBE IT'S JUST TIME FOR THE OUENDAN TO FADE AWAY.
HEY, ONCE THERE WAS NO MORE OUENDAN, WHO DID THE CHEERING FOR OUR SCHOOL'S SPORTS TEAMS?
WAIT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
HEY, USAMI-SAN.
ビク...
FLINCH
TAKING THOSE POSTERS DOWN, HUH? THAT'S A SHAME.

SO,
THINK YOU'RE GONNA FIND ANY MEMBERS IN TIME FOR OUR INTER-CLUB TRAINING SESH?
KANAN
ABE-SAN ...
THE OUENDAN GOT TAKEN OVER BY THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB.
?!

5. CHEERLEADER RAPID FIRE

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU, USAMI-SAN.
YOU'RE SO PRETTY, YOU'D GET A LOT OF BOYS JOINING UP, FOR SURE.

I MEAN, HE'S NOT ANOTHER ONE WHO'S JUST GONNA QUIT ON YOU, RIGHT?
I HOPE THAT WORKS OUT.
OH, A GUY, HUH?
ULP ...

OH MY GOD. YOU HAVE A NEW MEMBER?
WAIT!
A GUY OR A GIRL?
A- A GUY.

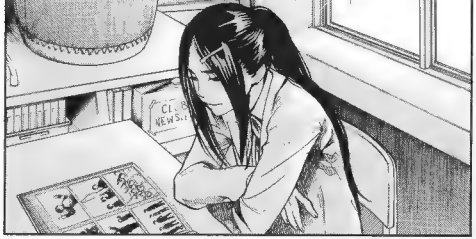
WHY NOT LEAVE THEM UP?
WHEN I SAW THESE POSTERS, I THOUGHT YOU'D FINALLY COME AROUND.

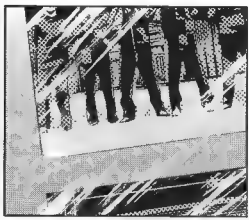
THIS IS THE UNAUTHORIZED WORK OF MY NEWEST MEMBER.
TEAR

I DON'T MEAN TO DISCOURAGE YOU, USAMI-SAN.
I REALLY HOPE THE OUENDAN CAN CHEER WITH US. I'M JUST WORRIED.
I MEAN, THE CHEERLEADING CLUB DOES HAVE WAY MORE MEMBERS, AFTER ALL.
IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING AT ALL, FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME, OKAY?

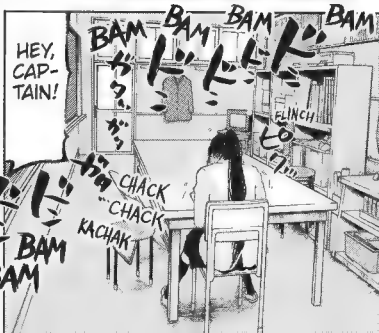
ANYWAY,
I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK AT THE INTERCLUB TRAINING SESSION. ♥
DON'T SWEAT IT IF YOU CAN'T GET TOGETHER THE MEMBERS YOU'LL NEED.

I'LL MAKE SURE WE'RE READY TO PERFORM WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.

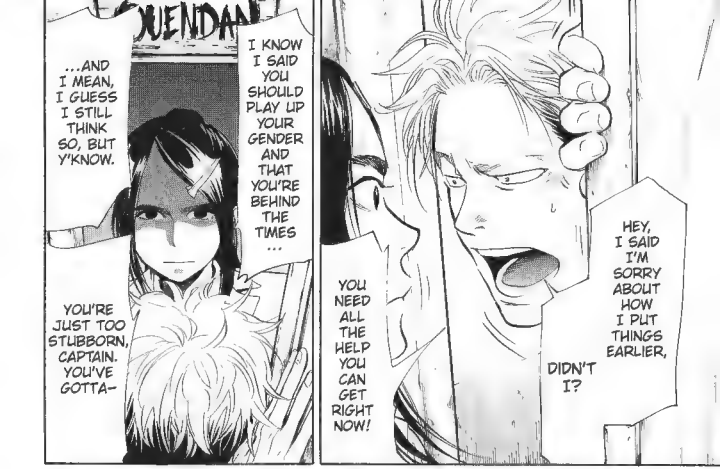

OUENDAN



BAM
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR.
OUENDAN
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
YOU IN THERE?
YOU DO NOT SOUND LIKE YOU MEAN THAT.
GOD,


HEY, CAPTAIN!
BAM
FLINCH
CHACK
CHACK
KACHAK

SLIDE
WHOA
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING YOU SHOULD WEAR A CHEERLEADING OUTFIT OR WHATEVER.
BAM
BAM
BAM
THEY'VE JUST ABOUT TAKEN THE OUENDAN'S PLACE DUE TO YOUR LACK OF MEMBERS, RIGHT?
I HEARD ABOUT THE STUFF WITH THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB.
SERI-OUSLY ?
...NEVER TO SET FOOT IN HERE AGAIN?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU ...
THMP
?!
SLIDE

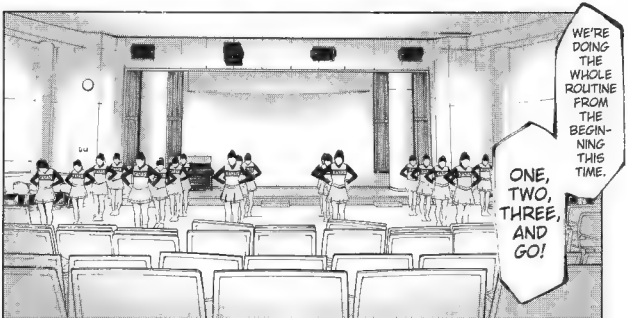

HEY, I SAID I'M SORRY ABOUT HOW I PUT THINGS EARLIER, DIDN'T I?
YOU NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET RIGHT NOW!
I KNOW I SAID YOU SHOULD PLAY UP YOUR GENDER AND THAT YOU'RE BEHIND THE TIMES ...
...AND I MEAN, I GUESS I STILL THINK SO, BUT Y'KNOW.
YOU'RE JUST TOO STUBBORN, CAPTAIN. YOU'VE GOTTA-

THWUNK

I'M GONNA MAKE THIS CLUB GROW MY OWN WAY. JUST YOU WATCH.
YOU'RE USELESS TO ME IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE HOW WE DO THINGS IN THE OUENDAN.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE, YOU LITTLE PUNK!
WELL, WHAT NOW?
WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
HMP

DAMN IT!
WHAT THE HELL? I WAS TRYING TO BE A NICE GUY, SINCE SHE WAS CRYING AND ALL.
NO WAY ANYONE'S GONNA JOIN HER CLUB IF SHE KEEPS THAT UP.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE HER ALONE?
EVENTUALLY, THE CAPTAIN WILL STEP DOWN, AND THAT'LL BE THE END OF THAT.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

...
ドキ ドキ THROB THROB
BEFORE WE WENT BACK IN TIME, THE CHEERLEADERS WERE DOING AS GOOD A JOB AS THE OUENDAN EVER DID, SO WHO CARES?

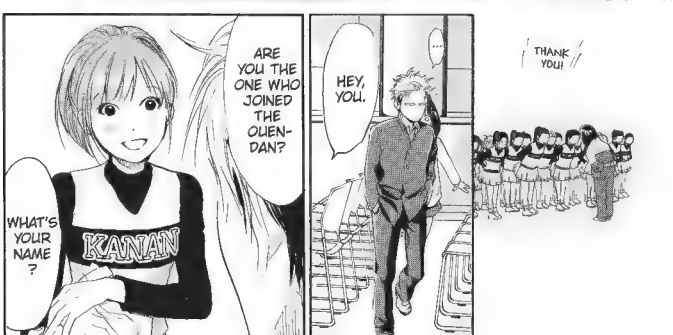

ONE, TWO, THREE, AND GO!
WE'RE DOING THE WHOLE ROUTINE FROM THE BEGINNING THIS TIME.

Go Fight!
KANAN
WHOA...
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM...
THEY DO WELL IN COMPETITIONS, SO IT'S A POPULAR CLUB.
Go Fight!
AND A ONE-MEMBER CHEERLEADING CLUB.
SO IT'S PRETTY COMMON FOR THAT STUFF TO JUST BE PART OF THE CLUB.
MHMM...
HURR HURR
むぅあ
MEN! FIGURES YOU ALL JUST WANT SOME GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE SHE'D DATE THE QUARTERBACK ON AN AMERICAN SITCOM!
YOU'RE THE WORST.
COME AGAIN?
What are you talking about?

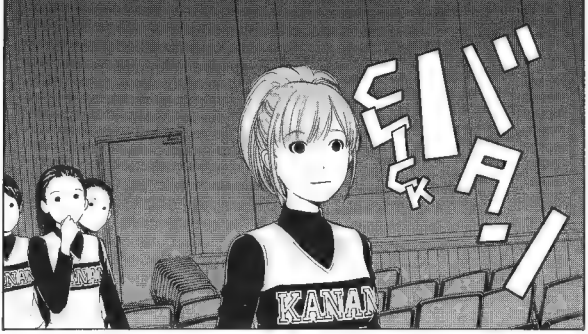
HEY, YOU TWO! WHO ARE YOU?
?!
?
UH...
WELL...
THIS GUY'S FROM THE OUENDAN AND WANTED TO WATCH YOU PRACTICE!
TH-
HE'S THEIR NEWEST MEMBER.
RIGHT?
HEY.
OH, I SEE.
I GUESS WE WILL BE TRAINING TOGETHER NEXT WEEK.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?

OUR ANNUAL INTERLEAGUE BASEBALL GAME IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.
EVERY YEAR, THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB, THE OUENDAN, AND THE BASEBALL CLUB'S BENCHERS WORK TOGETHER TO CHEER OUR TEAM ON, SO WE'LL BE TRAINING FOR THAT NEXT WEEK.
OH ...
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD TO SEE A BOY LIKE YOU HAS JOINED THE OUENDAN!
THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN EASY WITH THE ONLY MEMBER BEING THAT CAPTAIN OF YOURS.
HEY, COACH.
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO PRACTICE.
YOU GUYS STICK AROUND AND WATCH.
RIGHT!
OKAY.
DAMN ...
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DADUM

IF THE CAPTAIN WERE HERE...
Y'KNOW
I'll be just fine on my own!!
THE CLUBS WILL BE TRAINING TOGETHER NEXT WEEK, HUH?
Ugh, Imamura! You were just trying to decide which of them you like best, weren't you? That's gross, you jerk!
I SORT OF DOUBT ANYONE BESIDES ME WILL HAVE JOINED THE OUENDAN BY THEN ...


ARE YOU THE ONE WHO JOINED THE OUEN-DAN?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KANAN
HEY, YOU.
...
THANK YOU!

OH...
I'M KIN-ICHIRO IMA-MURA.
WELL, HI.
I'M THE CHEER CAPTAIN HERE, TAMAKI ABE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
YEAH...
IT'S COOL THAT A GUY LIKE YOU JOINED ALL ON YOUR OWN.
I'm surprised!
KANAN
THEN AGAIN,
I BET USAMI-SAN WAS A MOTIVATING FACTOR, HUH?
COME ON, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
SHE'S SO PRETTY, AFTER ALL!
HUH?
UH-OH.
I knew it
giggle giggle
FIG-URES.
IS THAT WHAT THEY THINK OF ME?
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...
GOTTA GO.


バ！
KANAN

OH GOD, AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE THEIR NEXT CAPTAIN!
UGH, WHY'D A CREEP LIKE HIM HAVE TO JOIN THE OUENDAN?
WHO KNOWS?
AND WHY'D HE BRING THAT GIRL?
THINK HE'S IN A GANG?
THAT JERK!
THAT'S SOME NERVE FOR A FIRST-YEAR!
WHAT. IS. HIS. PROB-LEM?!
KANAN

I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM.
HE'S SUCH A LONER IT'S SCARY.
JUST THE THOUGHT OF HAVING TO WORK WITH HIM MAKES ME WANNA GAG!
It disgusts me.
Heh heh heh heh heh... What a bunch of sluts.
You just use your looks to win favor.
CHEERING WITH USAMI'S BAD ENOUGH!
EW, NO!
I VOTE NO!
THERE'S NO WAY!

WELCOME HOME!
HOW WAS YOUR DAY, KIN-CHAN?
EXHAUSTING...
バタン THUD
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WAIT, WHAT?
YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM?!
くるっ TWIRL
YEAH...
YOU POOR THING...
?
HUH?
O-OKAY...
SORRY!
BUT AS YOUR CAPTAIN, I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR!

AGH.
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER TALKED TO GIRLS AS MUCH AS I JUST DID.
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND OVER ANYTIME, SWEETIE!
NO ...
I THINK EVERY SINGLE GIRL I TALKED TO TODAY HATES ME.
♪ DAAANG
DOOONG
DOOONG
I'M HUN-GRY!
LET'S EAT TOGETH-ER!
CLATTER
I NEED TO FIND THE CAP-TAIN.
MAYBE SHE'S IN THE WEST BUILD-ING?

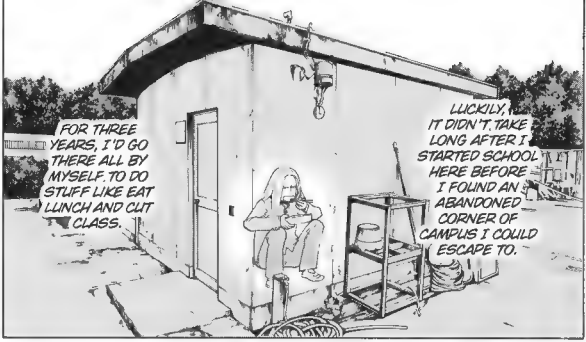
...I'LL GO APOLOGIZE AGAIN.
I GUESS...
...
HEY. IMAMURA-KUN.
PAT
SMILE
HUH?
WHO'S THIS?
REMEMBER ME?
I WAS ONE OF THE CHEERLEADERS YOU SAW YESTERDAY.
BWA?
OHHH, OKAY.
WHAT IS IT?

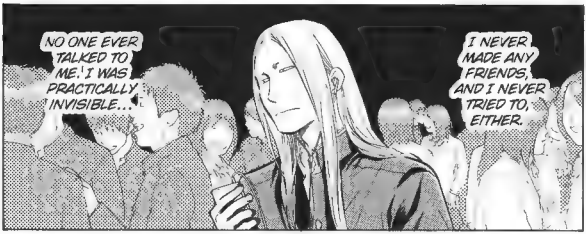
LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER.
WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!
HE SAYS HE'S ALL ALONE.
CAN IMAMURA JOIN US?
HEY,
SURE!

6. TROUBLEMAKER?

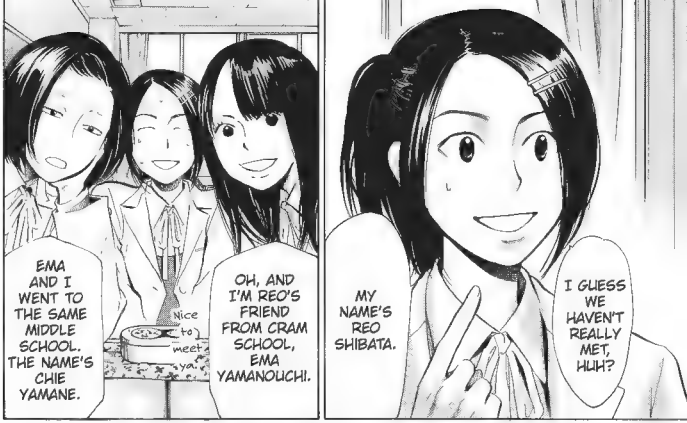
LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER.
OH ...
DO YOU ALREADY HAVE PLANS WITH SOMEONE ELSE?

NO ...
I GUESS I DON'T ...
GREAT.
BY THE WAY, YOU DON'T MIND IF MY FRIENDS JOIN US, DO YOU?
OH.
NO.
WHY NOT ...
IN MY THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL, NOT ONCE DID I EVER HAVE "PLANS" WITH ANYONE.


FOR THREE YEARS, I'D GO THERE ALL BY MYSELF. TO DO STUFF LIKE EAT LUNCH AND CUT CLASS.
LUCKILY, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG AFTER I STARTED SCHOOL HERE BEFORE I FOUND AN ABANDONED CORNER OF CAMPUS I COULD ESCAPE TO.


NO ONE EVER TALKED TO ME. I WAS PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE...
I NEVER MADE ANY FRIENDS, AND I NEVER TRIED TO, EITHER.

GIVE ME A BREAK!
AND YET HERE I AM, HAVING LUNCH IN THE CLASS-ROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH THREE GIRLS.


I GUESS WE HAVEN'T REALLY MET, HUH?
MY NAME'S REO SHIBATA.
OH, AND I'M REO'S FRIEND FROM CRAM SCHOOL, EMA YAMANOUCHI.
Nice to meet ya.
EMA AND I WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL. THE NAME'S CHIE YAMANE.

UHHHH...
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
KIN-ICHIRO IMA-MURA.
IS...
MY NAME.

I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF EATING ALONE.
THIS IS AWK-WARD!
NOM NOM NOM
QUIT STAR-ING!
SHWIP
SHWIP
BADUMP
BADUMP

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WERE WE IN THE SAME CLASS OUR FIRST YEAR?
SHE DOESN'T SEEM FAMILIAR...
REO SHIBATA...
REO...
WAIT.
THAT REO?
OH! I REMEMBER NOW!
REO SHIBATA!
FLINCH
HUH?
WHAT?
JUST, I REMEMBER YOUR NAME.
YOU HAD SUCH GOOD GRADES. I'D ALWAYS SEE YOUR NAME NEAR THE TOP OF THE CHART.
I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED FANCY.
HEY! YOU DO KNOW HER.
REO'S GOT A REPUTATION FOR BEING ONE OF THE SMART KIDS AT OUR CRAM SCHOOL, TOO.
HEY, CUT IT OUT.

I'M PRETTY SURE SHE ENDED UP GETTING INTO SOME SUPER-PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGE.
REO SHIBATA. SHE HAD THE BEST GRADES OUT OF ALL THE GIRLS IN OUR YEAR.
...SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY SOME-THING TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT.
DOING NOTHING BUT STUDYING FOR THREE YEARS DIDN'T SOUND FUN...
JUST ...
FIDGET FIDGET
WELL, NO.
OH, YOU DIDN'T DO ANY SPORTS, REO?
YOU WERE JUST STUDY, STUDY, STUDY ALL THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, WEREN'T YOU?
Y'KNOW, THOUGH, I'M SURPRISED YOU JOINED THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB, REO.
HMM ...
I HOPE SO.
I'LL BE FINE!
NOT A PROB-LEM!
...
WOW.
ARE YOU SURE A QUIET GIRL LIKE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIT IN WITH THOSE CHEER-LEADERS, SHIBATA-SAN?
GULP

What do you think?
WELL, I HEARD THIS SCHOOL'S DRESS CODE DIDN'T HAVE ANY RESTRICTIONS ABOUT YOUR HAIR.
SO I WENT TO MY USUAL STYLIST BEFORE I MOVED HERE AND GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
HE DID THIS TO ME WHILE I WAS SLEEPING.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT, TOO.
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
HEY, IMAMURA.
WHY'D YOU GO BLOND?
...
IT'S NOT, LIKE, A STATEMENT OR SOMETHING?
コクリ
NOD
コクリ
NOD
THAT'S IT?

I COULD'VE SWORN HE WAS TRYING TO BE A REBEL OR SOMETHING!
THAT'S FUNNY!
NO, I'M NOT IN A GANG!
SO YOU'RE NOT IN A GANG?
DAMN!
SERIOUSLY? OH MY GOD!
WHAT PART? WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?
YOU USED TO LIVE IN TOKYO, RIGHT?
HEY, YOU'RE GOING OVERBOARD.
AHHAHAHA
YOU'RE A GRANDMA'S BOY! THAT'S HILARIOUS!
I DON'T. THEY'RE JUST THIN. MY GRANDMA DOESN'T HAVE ANY, EITHER.
WAIT, WAIT. SO... WHY DO YOU SHAVE YOUR EYEBROWS?
GUH.
SO MUCH FOR BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

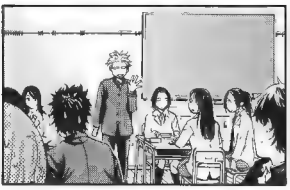
AH HA HA HA HA
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
I MEAN, I JUST—
LURK!
JEALOUSY
Hey.
I want some.
Why would I do that?!
Try it! It's really bad!
This tea tastes awful!
GUEH
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D BE WAY SCARIER, IMAMURA.
Y'KNOW,
ME, TOO.

HUSH
WHOA.
DON'T GET ALL QUIET ON ME.
WELL, HERE'S WHAT'S GOT ME.
I'VE NEVER EATEN LUNCH IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHY WE'RE DOING THIS.
GOD, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS?
That's creepy!
WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL YOU WERE WITH YESTER-DAY?
OH, HER?
HERE
STUFF
I MEAN... WE'RE NOT EXACTLY FRIENDS. I DON'T THINK. WE JUST KNOW EACH OTHER.
...
PHEW...
WELL ...
YOU'RE IN THE OUENDAN, THOUGH.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR CAP-TAIN?
THE CAPTAIN ...
SORT OF ...
...HATES ME RIGHT NOW.
SHE TOLD ME NEVER TO SET FOOT IN THE CLUB ROOM AGAIN.
HUH?
HUH?
SLIDE

I'M USAMI, CAPTAIN OF THE OUENDAN.
OSU!
FIRST-YEARS, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU!
?!

DO I HAVE ANY VOLUN-TEERS ?!
RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING FROM CLASS TO CLASS SEEKING OUT NEW RECRUITS FOR THE OUENDAN.

God, what's this all about?
She's scary!
IF YOU'RE UNCERTAIN, I'LL ALLOW YOU TO JOIN ON A TENTATIVE BASIS!
YOU MAY WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OUENDAN'S ACTIVITIES BEFORE MAKING YOUR FINAL DECISION.



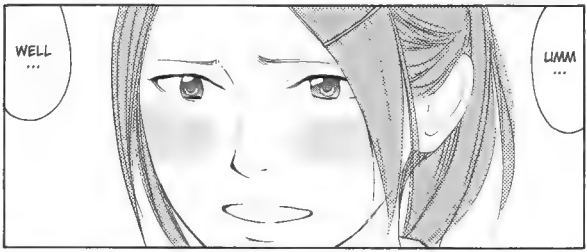
HEY, CAPTAIN.
ガタ・・・ GATER
SO ...
HOW ABOUT ME ?

I'M IN SEARCH OF RECRUITS WHO ARE PREPARED TO JOIN ME IN MAINTAINING THE SPIRIT AND TRADITIONS OF THE OUENDAN!
THOSE OF YOU WHO JUST WANT TO FLIRT WITH GIRLS OVER LUNCH CAN STAY HOME!

I'LL BE TRAINING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATES ONCE CLASSES ARE OVER.
COME SEE FOR YOUR-SELVES ON YOUR WAY OUT.
THAT IS ALL!
OSU!!
CHATTER CHATTER
SHE MUST...
...HATE ME EVEN MORE NOW.
I SURE BLEW THAT...

I GUESS...
...I'LL GO SEE THE CAPTAIN.
HEY, IMAMURA.
REO WANTS TO-
LISTEN.
GAAAH!
I MEAN, ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S FINE! JUST STOP. STOP IT.
WELL, LATER THEN!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
BYE-BYE!
...?
BYE...
WHAT THE HELL?

I-
IMA-
MURA-
KUN.
WHAT?


WELL
...
UMM
...

INSIDE SHOES O
I
WANT
...
...TO
WALK
HOME
WITH
YOU.

OH.
I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO SEE THE CAPTAIN.
HURK
SEE YA.
HEY!
UHH...
NO!
GRAB
W-
WAIT UP!
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU.

HEY, SHE'S NOT TOO BAD.
AND SHE WAS SO HESITANT AT FIRST.
SHE SEEMS LIKE SHE LIKES IMAMURA SORT OF A LOT, DOESN'T SHE?
RIGHT ?
YOU CAN MAKE ANY BOY INTO YOUR TOY IF YOU DO AS I TELL YOU.
TEE-HEE!

REO.
WE WERE BORN AS GIRLS ...
...SO WE HAVE TO BE-COME TIGERS.
I WANT YOU TO STEAL HIS HEART FROM THE OUENDAN'S CAPTAIN FOR ME, OKAY?

AFTER ALL, IT'S DEFINITELY IN HIS BEST INTEREST NOT TO JOIN THAT SILLY LITTLE CLUB OF HERS.

offers
of.
SCHOO
Stude
in
class
(main
buildin
LING SCHOOL LIFE
ch day is divided
indepen

CAP-TAIN ABE,
WHAT ADVICE DID YOU GIVE HER ABOUT SEDUCING IMAMURA, ANYWAY?
OH, IT WAS KID STUFF.
ANY OF YOU GIRLS COULD PULL IT OFF.

GET SUGGES-TIVE WITH YOUR TARGET WHEN HE DOESN'T EXPECT IT,
AND THEN LEAVE HIM WANT-ING MORE.
RINSE AND REPEAT.
OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE.
BUT REO-CHAN'S SMART. I THINK SHE CAN FIGURE IT OUT.
HE'LL BE LIKE, "HUH? WHY IS SHE ACTING THAT WAY TOWARDS ME?"
KEEP THAT UP, AND SOON ENOUGH YOU'LL HAVE HIM WRAPPED AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER. THAT'S ALL.
I MEAN, WE'RE TALKING IMAMURA HERE, THE GUY WITH NO FRIENDS.
I DOUBT HE CAN RESIST.

HEY... IMAMURA-KUN?
UHH...
SWEEP
ACK!
?!
UGH, WHY IS SHE ACTING THIS WAY TOWARDS ME?
SHE WANTS TO WALK HOME WITH ME?
THERE'S SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO TELL ME?
IMAMURA-KUN?

SHATTER
THIS HAS GOT TO BE PART OF SOME SCHEME!
WHY ME?
WE JUST MET!
DON'T TAKE ME FOR A FOOL. I SPENT MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER IN ISOLATION.
SEEMS PRETTY WEIRD, DON'T YOU THINK?
I'M SORRY.
HEY, IMAMURA-KUN
IMAMURA-KUN? DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
CAPTAIN...
CLANG
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GAIN FROM TALKING TO AN IDIOT LIKE ME?
YOU'RE A SMART GIRL, SHIBATA-SAN.

SHUDDER
UGH.
UH, COME ON?
GO GET HIM!
OF COURSE...
...IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN B.
HOORAY!
HOORAY!
MINAMI!

GO-TEAM!
KAWAAAN!
GOOO!
GO!
OH GOD ...
EVERY-ONE'S JUST PRETEND-ING SHE'S NOT THERE.
RECRUITING LIKE THAT ISN'T GONNA GET ANYONE TO JOIN.
HEY!
HEY!
MI-NA-MI!
NOW RECRUITING!
STAY HOME !!
SHE'LL PROBABLY JUST YELL AT ME AGAIN IF I TRY TO TALK TO HER ...
Ugh
THE OUENDAN IS SUPPOSED TO TRAIN WITH THE CHEERLEADING CLUB NEXT WEEK.
THERE'S NO TIME.
AT LEAST FOR NOW, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S WILLING TO JOIN THE OUENDAN, AND YET...
SHE COULD AT LEAST TRY TO SAVE IT.
TUTTY
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
...
UMM ...

HEY ...
EX-CUSE ME.
WHAT IS IT?
WELL ...
Y'SEE, I...
I WAS PRETTY MOVED BY YOUR PER-FORMANCE AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
I'VE BEEN TOO EMBAR-RASSED TO COME TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT.
BUT ...
...I WANT TO JOIN THE OUENDAN!
HUH?!
ALSO ...

...MY FRIENDS SEEM INTERESTED, TOO.
YOUR CHEERING AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY REALLY TOUCHED MY HEART!
YOU'RE SO COOL!
I WANNA CHEER LIKE THAT!
HUH...?
HMM?
UH...
I'D LIKE TO JOIN, TOO.
HEY.
THEY'RE STILL RECRUITING FOR THE OUENDAN.
REALLY?!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
YEEAH!
CAPTAIN!
WE WANT TO CHEER WITH YOU!

WHAT ...
IS THIS SOME KIND OF PRANK?!
HRGH
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME-THING WEIRD GOING ON HERE!
...
CAP-TAIN!
CAP-TAIN!
YEE EEAH
WE'RE WITH YOU!
LET'S DO OUR BEST!

YOU GUYS... THANK YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OSU!
URR
RGH
DO YOU LEAVE FROM THE BACK GATE?
HEY, IMA-MURA-KUN.
OH.
STOMP
ズン
STOMP
ズン
STOMP
ズン
MAYBE I COULD HEAD OVER THERE WITH YOU.
THE HELL WITH THIS!
FWIP

...THERE WASN'T EVEN ANY POINT IN PUTTING IN ALL THAT EFFORT, HUH?
SO...
PANT
PANT
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
IMA-MURA-KUN.
DID YOU WANT TO JOIN THE POLEDAN THAT BADLY?
PANT
PANT
TMP
TMP
NOPE.
NOT REAL-LY.
PANT
DON'T YOU LIKE CHEER-ING, THOUGH?
PANT
PANT
NOT REAL-LY.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT SPORTS, ANYWAY.
OKAY! KATCHING
COME ON!
FWOOO
THEN ...
YOU MUST'VE REALLY LIKED THE CAPTAIN, HUH?
PANT
PANT

NO,
I DON'T LIKE HER!
I JUST ...
... THOUGHT SHE NEEDED ME.
BUT I WAS WRONG.

SHAKE
ぶんっぶんっ
SHAKE
NEVER MIND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GOOD"?
HUH?

GOOD.
REALLY?

UH-HUH.
SORRY, IT WAS NOTHING.

AND I'LL BRING SOMETHING FOR YOU TO BORROW.
LEND ME ONE, TOO, OKAY?
REMEMBER HOW CHIE-CHAN WANTED YOU TO LEND HER A CD?
OH!
YEAH, BYE.
UH,
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
BYE NOW.

SEE YA!

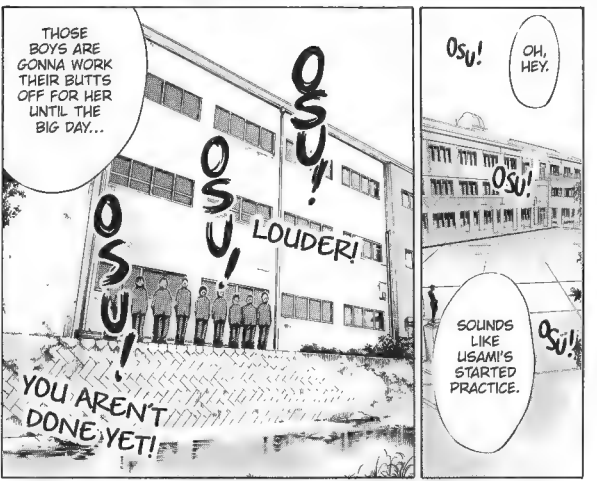
REO SHIBATA.
YOU JUST DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO FOOL AROUND.
BUT STILL ...
MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE HARSH ON HER EARLIER.
...
BADUMP
ドキ
BADUMP
ドキ
BADUMP

I–
I'M BACK.
HEY THERE.
HMM.
YOU MAY BE BOOK SMART, REO-CHAN, BUT I GUESS ROMANCE ISN'T EASY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE, HUH?
YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST HELD HANDS WITH HIM.
GRR

I'M NOT SO SURE.
WOULDN'T IT SEEM UNNATURAL TO DO THAT OUT OF NOWHERE WITH A BOY I ONLY JUST MET IN THE LAST DAY OR TWO?
IMA-MURA-KUN WAS REALLY SUS-PICIOUS OF ME.
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU WERE ACTING ALL NERVOUS, HUN.
HAVE A LITTLE CONFIDENCE. USE YOUR FEMININE WILES ON HIM.
HE'S GOTTA HAVE A THING FOR YOU, SINCE YOU HAVE THE SAME HAIRCUT AS CAPTAIN USAMI AND ALL. I GUARANTEE IT.
'KAY?
LIFT

AND HEY, WE ALL MADE GOOD USE OF OUR FEMININE WILES TO PLANT THOSE BOYS IN THE OUENDAN!
RIGHT?
MY DEAR LITTLE FIRST-YEARS?
RIGHT!

HUH?!
SO... YOU GUYS MADE THAT HAPPEN?
What the hell?
Right on, Captain!
Hey, Captain!
Captain!
IT REALLY DID SEEM STAGED...


THOSE BOYS ARE GONNA WORK THEIR BUTTS OFF FOR HER UNTIL THE BIG DAY...
OSU!
OSU!
LOUDER!
OSU!
YOU AREN'T DONE YET!
OSU!
OH, HEY.
OSU!
SOUNDS LIKE USAMI'S STARTED PRACTICE.
OSU!

...AND THEN THEY'LL QUIT ALL AT ONCE RIGHT BEFORE OUR INTERCLUB TRAINING.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON USAMI'S FACE! ☆
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOTTA SEE TO IT THAT IMAMURA DOESN'T REJOIN THE OUENDAN, REO-CHAN.
HE SEEMS JUST SHARP ENOUGH TO GET IN OUR WAY.

ANY-WAY!
HOW'S ABOUT WE PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE NO-OUENDAN VERSION OF OUR BASEBALL CHEERS?
WE CHEER-LEADERS HAVE GOTTA SHOW KANAN HIGH THE MEANING OF PEP!
-YEAH!-
MINAMIIII!
GO, TEAM, GOOO!
GO, TEAM, GOOO!
EVERYBODY!
GO, TEAM, GOOO!
...
I SEE ...

8. ORDINARY WORLD: REALM OF BOREDOM

MORNING.
GOOD MORNING!

...SINCE I WENT THREE YEARS BACK IN TIME TO THE DAY OF MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
I'm tired.
IT'S BEEN A FEW DAYS NOW...

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN UP LATE, HUH?
WHOA, YOU LOOK AWFUL.
MORNING...
MORNING!
OH, HEY.
AW YEAH, I'M READY FOR THIS.
OOH, REALLY?
I'VE GOT THE GOODS.
GOOD MORNING, IMAMURA-KUN!

THANKS!
I REALLY LIKED THAT CD YOU LENT ME LAST WEEK.
AND THAT BAND IS PRETTY NEW, TOO. YOU MUST KNOW YOUR STUFF, IMAMURA.
YEAH, THIS MANGA ISN'T EXACTLY FAMOUS, EITHER.
SCATTER
MY RECOMMENDED MANGA ...
...AND CDS.
NOW, ABOUT THAT BAND I LENT YOU LAST WEEK.
WELL, THESE SONGS ARE SOME OF THIS BAND'S BETTER ONES, BUT THIS NEXT TRACK IS THE ONE THAT'S REALLY GONNA MAKE THEM BIG.
I THINK YOU GIRLS WOULD PROBABLY LIKE IT.
THEY'RE GONNA BREAK UP OVER SOME INFIGHTING PRETTY SOON, SO YOU MIGHT WANNA GO TO ONE OF THEIR CONCERTS WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
OH, AND THIS MANGA? IT'S SORT OF AIMED AT NERDS, BUT THE MOVIE THEY MADE OUT OF IT WAS GENERALLY PRETTY WELL RECEIVED.
SOUNDS LIKE HE CAN PREDICT WHAT'S GONNA BE A HIT, TOO.
RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, LIKE, A LOT ABOUT MUSIC, DON'T YOU?
HUH ...
...
...B-BUT IT'LL PROBABLY BE A HIT OR... Y'KNOW.
I MEAN, NOT THAT THEY'VE MADE IT INTO A MOVIE YET ...

IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE KNOWS THE FUTURE.
I DON'T FREAKIN' KNOW THE FUTURE!
ROAR

GASP
HUSH....
OH... S-SORRY...
NOW THERE ARE THREE PEOPLE I CAN ACTUALLY TALK TO IN MY CLASS...
...BUT THIS DAILY ROUTINE ISN'T ANY LESS BORING THAN IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO.

NOW COME SOLVE THIS PROB-LEM!
HEY! IMA-MURA!
YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTEN-TION!
It's exasper-ating.
AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THE AGONY OF RETAKING CLASSES I'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH...

TAK
TAK
TAK

WE'RE GOING TO WORK ON VOICE PROJECTION FOR ONE HOUR!
AND YOU BETTER BE LOUD, OR I'LL MAKE IT TWO!
LOUDER, FIRST-YEARS!
OSU!
OSU!
WUSH
WUSH
WUSH
I CAN BARELY HEAR YOU!
LOWER YOUR STANCE!
PANT
PANT
I SAID LOWER! AND STRAIGHTEN YOUR ARMS!

HEY...
EXCUSE...ME...
PANT PANT
PLEASE...CAN I REST... JUST A LITTLE?
M-
ME, TOO.
PANT
PANT
...
ハアハア
ALL RIGHT.
YOU'VE GOT 15 MINUTES. THEN WE'RE TAKING IT FROM THE TOP.

HEEEEY! USAMI!!
HOW'S THE TRAINING GOING?
KITAJIMA-SENSEI.

...
HMM.
THEY ALL LISTEN TO ME.
THEY'RE NOT BAD GUYS...
...BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T GET THE FEELING THEY'RE GIVING THIS THEIR ALL.
I MEAN, THEY'RE JUST SORT OF PASSIVE.

ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T BEING TOO HARD ON THEM?
I'M TAKING IT EXTREMELY EASY ON THEM!
I LITERALLY COUGHED UP BLOOD WHEN I WAS NEW TO THE CLUB.
OSU!
MY SENPAI WOULD'VE LEFT ME HALF-DEAD IF I'D HAVE ASKED FOR A BREAK!
OSU!
THE KIDS THESE DAYS ARE JUST TOO SOFT!
WHEN I WAS THEIR AGE, WE WERE A LOT STRICTER ABOUT HOW WE SPOKE TO OUR SUPERIORS.
AND THEN THERE'S VOICE PROJECTION! FOR A MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN, THE REAL YELLING DOESN'T START UNTIL YOU'VE LOST YOUR VOICE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF BREATH OVER A LITTLE BIT OF BASIC ENDURANCE TRAINING!
AND THEY STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN BEFORE THE INTERCLUB TRAINING!
HMMMMM.
HEAR ME OUT! EARLIER TODAY ...
PLUS ...
AND THEN ...
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT UNTIL THE INTERCLUB TRAINING, DO WE?
IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE FOR THEM TO LEARN THE CHOREO-GRAPHY FOR OUR BASEBALL CHEERS ...
NOT TO MENTION THE TAIKO DRUM-MING ...
...

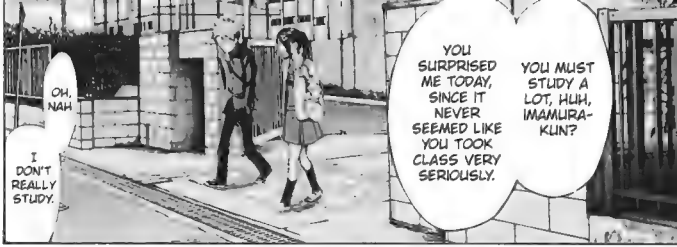
RADIO CLUB
OUENDAN
WHY DON'T WE ...
...ASK THEM TO COME BACK?
I CAN SEE HOW HARD YOU'RE WORKING, BUT I THINK THE SITUATION CALLS FOR-
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
WE...
...CAN HANDLE THIS OURSELVES!

IS THAT SO?
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
WE'RE STARTING PRACTICE.
EXCUSE ME, BUT IT STILL HASN'T BEEN 15 MINUTES.
WE'RE STARTING.
UH-
OH, OKAY.
YOU MEAN, "OSU!"

KANAAAN!
FIGHT!
KANAAN

GO! GO! LET'S GO!
MI-NA-MI!

I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR IT TO PASS ME BY.
DUM
DUM
DUM
NOW..
...I ALREADY KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
THE OUENDAN DOESN'T NEED ME TO SAVE IT ANYMORE.
DADUM
DADUM
OVER A THOUSAND DAYS OF BOREDOM.
TAP
THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL
IMA-MURA-KUN!
THERE YOU ARE.
I'VE BEEN LOOK-ING FOR YOU!
SO...
WANNA START HEAD-ING HOME?
SURE.


YOU SURPRISED ME TODAY, SINCE IT NEVER SEEMED LIKE YOU TOOK CLASS VERY SERIOUSLY.
YOU MUST STUDY A LOT, HUH, IMAMURA-KUN?
OH, NAH
I DON'T REALLY STUDY.

LIKE ...
YOU NEVER SEEM VERY MOTIV-ATED.
EH ...
OH ...
HANGING OUT WITH ME MUST BE PRETTY BORING. HUH?
...

YOU'RE NOT BORING, SHIBATA-SAN.
I JUST ...
...THINK HIGH SCHOOL IS BORING.

Ugh
GAAAH.
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO.
Y'KNOW ...
MAYBE NOTHING MIND-BLOWINGLY COOL IS EVER GONNA HAPPEN TO ME.

WE ...
... NEED TO TALK.
GRAB
WELL, YOU SEE ...
WHAT?
THERE'S SOME-THING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU.
ARE YOU TRYING TO SCARE ME?

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME CLEAN, REO SHIBATA.
THAT'S RIGHT!
BAM
UHH?

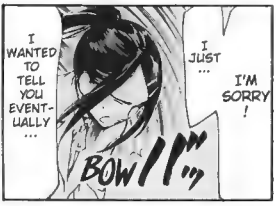
GAH, I JUST WANNA GET THIS OVER WITH AND GO ON THAT DATE WITH RUMI-CHAN.
WHY'S SHE GOTTA BE SO OLD-FASHIONED ABOUT EVERYTHING? IT'S SUCH A JOKE.
BUT THE CAPTAIN IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
I KNOW WE PROMISED WE'D STAY IN THE OUENDAN UNTIL THE INTERCLUB TRAINING,
SHE'S CUTE, ISN'T SHE?
WE'VE JUST GOTTA HANG IN THERE A LITTLE LONGER.
SHE'S SUCH A BITCH!
ALL★STAR
ALL★STAR

I'M SO TIRED.
OH GOD, I'M ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP.

CARE TO FILL ME IN ON THE DETAILS?
INTER-ESTING LITTLE CHAT.
OKAY. SEE YOU GUYS TOMOR-ROW.
BYE..
...AND THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.
SEE?
IT WAS ALL A SCHEME BY THE CHEERLEADERS' CAPTAIN TO DESTROY THE OUENDAN!
DON'T YOU GET IT?
THIS GIRL IS JUST A HONEY-POT!
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND ALL WEIRD!
...
What were you doing, grab-bing his arm?
W-Well, you see

HAVE I OPENED YOUR EYES?
TURNS OUT TURNING YOUR LIFE AROUND AIN'T THAT EASY.
YOU SERIOUSLY THOUGHT THE SMARTEST GIRL IN OUR YEAR WOULD COME ON TO YOU AND YOU COULD MAKE FRIENDS JUST LIKE THAT, HUH?

...I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU OUT, SO-
BUT, IMAMURA-KUN ...


I WANTED TO TELL YOU EVENTUALLY ...
I JUST ...
I'M SORRY!
BOW!!

NO! I DIDN'T HATE IT!
YOU WERE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS AND HAD TO EAT LUNCH WITH ME NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HATED IT.
WHATEVER, IT'S FINE.
UH-HUH.

AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO LIVE THE SAME BORING THREE YEARS ALL OVER AGAIN.
IMA-MURA ?
WAIT ...
OH GOD... I REALLY UNDER-ESTIMATED THIS WORLD.
UHH ?
WHILE I WASN'T PAYING ATTEN-TION ...
HEH HEH
...ALL SORTS OF COOL STUFF WAS GOING ON RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE.

I'VE SPENT THREE YEARS OF MY LIFE BEING TOTALLY IGNORED, SO DON'T YOU DARE UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
YOU CAN TREAT ME HOWEVER YOU WANT! I'M ALREADY USED TO IT, DUMBASS!
I WILL NOT LET THEM DESTROY THE OUENDAN!
CLAAAANG
NGH...
CLAP
SO...
CAN I GO HOME NOW?
YOU DORK.

9. THE DIRT ON USAMI

SO, REO-CHAN,
HOW'D YOUR LITTLE AFTER-SCHOOL DATE YESTER-DAY GO?
HAVE YOU AND IMAMURA KISSED YET?
NO, WE HAVEN'T.
WHY NOT? IS HE CELIBATE OR SOME-THING?
HARSH!
MAYBE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A SEX DRIVE.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE OUENDAN?
SQUEEEEEEEZE
きゅうう

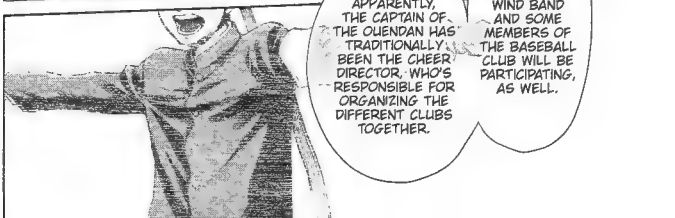
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S LOST INTEREST.
HE REALIZED CAPTAIN USAMI DIDN'T NEED HIM, AND HE WAS PRETTY UPSET ABOUT IT.
HA HA!
THAT'S FUNNY.
BOYS ARE SUCH SIMPLE CREATURES.

USAMI MUST BE SO HAPPY TO HAVE ALL THOSE NEW MEMBERS.
CAPTAIN !!
I WONDER WHAT THE LOOK ON HER FACE WILL BE IN THREE DAYS WHEN EVERY ONE OF THEM SUBMITS A RESIGNATION FORM ON THE DAY OF OUR INTERCLUB TRAINING.

HE HE HE HE HE
...
ARE YOU ...
...SURE WE'LL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE QUEN-DAN?
EXCUSE ME?
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ...
... ABOUT WHY USAMI IS THEIR LAST MEMBER.

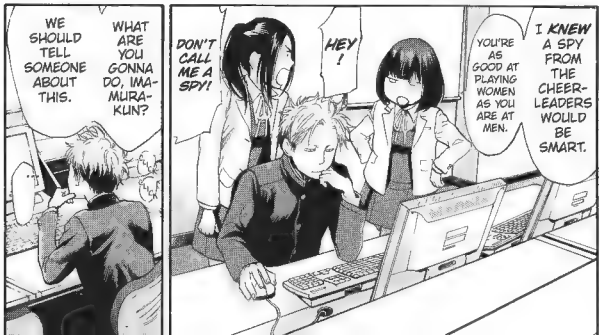
REO-CHAN.
I BELIEVE YOU REALLY ARE ON OUR SIDE.
I'M TRUST-ING YOU, OKAY?

WE ONLY HAVE THREE DAYS UNTIL THE CHEERLEADERS' AND OUENDAN'S INTERCLUB TRAINING.


APPARENTLY, THE CAPTAIN OF THE OUENDAN HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE CHEER DIRECTOR, WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING THE DIFFERENT CLUBS TOGETHER.
THE BRASS AND WIND BAND AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE BASEBALL CLUB WILL BE PARTICIPATING, AS WELL.

Activities
MAIN PAGE
ACTIVITIES
REPORTS
CAPTAIN ABE ISN'T TOO HAPPY ABOUT THAT,
SO SHE'S ARRANGED FOR THOSE NEW MEMBERS TO ALL BAIL ON THE DAY OF THE INTERCLUB TRAINING.
BASICALLY, SHE'S TRYING TO DESTROY THE OUENDAN'S REPUTATION AND UNDERMINE THEIR AUTHORITY.
MEAN-WHILE, THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB, WITH SO MANY MORE MEMBERS, HAS BEEN DOING MOST OF THE ACTUAL CHEERING.
BUT CAPTAIN USAMI'S BEEN THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN SINCE THE MIDDLE OF LAST YEAR, SO NOW BEING THE CHEER DIRECTOR IS HER ONLY REAL ROLE.

WE MIGHT EVEN WANT TO REQUEST THAT THE INTERCLUB TRAINING BE CANCELED.
LET'S PUT THE ISSUE OUT IN THE OPEN.
PERSONALLY, I THINK WE SHOULD REPORT THIS IMMEDIATELY TO CAPTAIN USAMI, THE OUENDAN'S SPONSOR, AND THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB'S SPONSOR.


WE SHOULD TELL SOMEONE ABOUT THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, IMA-MURA-KUN?
DON'T CALL ME A SPY!
HEY!
YOU'RE AS GOOD AT PLAYING WOMEN AS YOU ARE AT MEN.
I KNEW A SPY FROM THE CHEER-LEADERS WOULD BE SMART.

THAT'D BE BORING.
IT WOULD JUST MAKE EVERYONE FEEL LIKE CRAP.
BESIDES, SHIBATA-SAN, YOU'D GET BULLIED BY THE CHEER-LEADERS IF THEY FOUND OUT IT WAS YOU WHO SPILLED THE BEANS.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M READY TO DEAL WITH—
WHAT-EVER.
JUST KEEP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE ON THE CHEER-LEADERS' SIDE.

GAAAAAH, I GOTTA FIND A WAY TO HUMILIATE THAT CHEER CAPTAIN, SOMETHING THAT'LL REALLY MAKE A SPLASH.
DAMN, IMA-MURA, YOU REALLY ARE A JERK.
...
HMM.
LET'S GOOGLE "RE-VENGE METH-ODS."
HOW ABOUT "PRANKS FOR PAY-BACK"?
Ugh
TAP TAP TAP
TUNK

I'LL MAKE IT SEEM LIKE ...
...I FIGURED IT OUT ALL ON MY OWN.
TAP TAP TAP

IMA-MURA-KUN ...
YOU'D DO THAT FOR ME?

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY IS CAPTAIN USAMI THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE OUENDAN, ANYWAY?
CRE FEAK
THERE MUST'VE BEEN SOME OTHER MEMBERS. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
WAIT,
YOU DON'T KNOW?
KNOW WHAT?
OH, I GET IT. YOU DIDN'T MOVE HERE UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
USAMI-SAN IS A BIT OF A LOCAL LEGEND.
DID YOU EVER SEE HER ON TV, FUJIEDA-SAN?
OH YEAH, I GUESS I DID. THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT HER A LOT FOR A WHILE.
?
TODAY, IN REGIONAL NEWS, WE'LL BE REPORTING ON A TEENAGE GIRL WHO'S A MEMBER OF HER SCHOOL'S OUENDAN!
SPECIAL FEATURE
A DELICATE FLOWER'S OLD FASHIONED CHEERS
TOO CUTE! OUENDAN
A Girl in the Ouendan?!
COULD SHE BE A REAL VERSION OF THE GIRL FROM CHEER CHEER CHEER?!
FIND OUT AFTER THIS COMMERCIAL BREAK!

THIS IS IT!
WHAT THE?
HEY! I THINK I MIGHT'VE SEEN THIS.
WHAT GOT YOU SO INTERESTED...
...IN SEEING THESE RECORDINGS OF THE OUENDAN BEING FEATURED ON THE NEWS?
There's more where that came from!

AT FIRST GLANCE, KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL'S YOSHIKO USAMI APPEARS TO BE YOUR AVERAGE TEENAGE GIRL.
QUIET AND SOMETHING OF AN OVERACHIEVER, SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF GIRL WHO TENDS TO STICK OUT.

CHEEEEER
DUM
DUM
DADUM
KABOSU TEAM SPIRIT BASEBALL
HOWEVER, THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE TO HER THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE EXPECTED! THAT'S RIGHT! SHE'S...

IMAMURA...
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT HOW DAMN CUTE SHE IS RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU? ADMIT IT!

...THE FIRST FEMALE MEMBER OF KABOSU MINAMI HIGH'S OUENDAN!
DADUM
DADUM
DADUM
YOU CAN DO IT!
NAKAGAWA
SO SHE WASN'T THE ONLY MEMBER.
OH, HEY.
YOU CAN DO IT! YOU CAN DO IT!
DADUM
NAKAGAWA
AND SHE GETS A LOT OF ATTENTION FOR IT!
SHE WEARS THE TRADITIONAL BLAZER-AND-SLACKS UNIFORM ALONGSIDE HER MALE CLUBMATES.
TOO CUTE!
A Girl in the Ouendan?!

COULDN'T YOU HAVE JOINED THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB, THOUGH?
I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THE BOYS' OUENDAN!
OSU!
OSU! I WAS MOVED BY THEIR PERFORMANCE AT MY ENTTRANCE CEREMONY! SO I DECIDED TO JOIN!
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE OUENDAN WHEN ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE BOYS?
THIS WAS THE REPORT THAT MADE USAMI FAMOUS.
IT EVEN WON US SOME FANS WHO WOULD FOLLOW THE OUENDAN AROUND JUST FOR HER.
CAN IT, WILL YA?
SHE'S LIKE, "HOW DARE YOU! DIS THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB? YOU JUST JOINED THE OUENDAN TO CHASE BOYS, ANYWAY!"
HMM, NOW THERE'S THE LOOK OF A WOMAN SCORNED.
HEY!
THAT'S CAP-TAIN ABE.
AND THINGS GOT REALLY BAD FOR HER ONCE SHE BECAME THE TARGET OF AN ONLINE SMEAR CAMPAIGN.
TOO CUTE! A Girl in the Ouendan?
BUT THEN PEOPLE STARTED TALKING. THEY'D SAY SHE WAS LETTING THE FAME GO TO HER HEAD OR THAT SHE WAS JUST USING THE OUENDAN.
USAMI WENT ALONG WITH THIS KIND OF THING BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE OUENDAN COME BACK FROM ITS SLOW DECLINE OVER THE YEARS,

WAIT ...
A CERTAIN SOMEBODY MUST HAVE BEEN JEALOUS.
RIGHT?! WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN?! IT'S JUST HORRIBLE!
STEAM STEAM
HA HA!
Y'KNOW, I HEARD SOME OF THOSE RUMORS MYSELF.
BUT MAYBE THEY WERE JUST A BUNCH OF LIES ...
SERI-OUSLY ?
WHAT WERE THEY ?
PHEW
WHAT THE HELL ?
HOW MUCH OF THAT IS TRUE ?
...
IT'S TRUE THAT USAMI ENDED UP AS THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN ...
...BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT THOSE RUMORS ARE COMPLETELY BASELESS! DON'T YOU WORRY!
FWOO
THAT SHE HAD BEEN CAUSING PROBLEMS IN THE OUENDAN EVER SINCE SHE STARTED APPEARING ON TV.
ALLEGEDLY, THE OUENDAN PUT ALL THEIR ACTIVITIES ON HIATUS AND JUST ABOUT DISBANDED BECAUSE OF THAT.
SO IN THE END, CAPTAIN USAMI WAS THE ONLY PERSON LEFT IN THE CLUB.
RAGE
ぐりぬっ

IMA-MURA!
USAMI MAY BE A LITTLE STUB-BORN AT TIMES...
...BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S IN NEED OF COMPANIONS.
SMACK
SMACK
HELP HER OUT FOR ME.

BADUM
GO!

BADUM
GO KANAN!

THE CAPTAIN WASN'T ALONE IN THE OUENDAN.
THOSE GUYS...
...MUST STILL GO TO SCHOOL HERE.

SO IF THEY JOIN BACK UP, THE OUENDAN DOESN'T HAVE TO FALL APART!
HUH?
Bye-bye!
See ya!
DOOONG
DOOONG
DOOONG
DOOONG
DOOONG
DOOONG
WHOOPS.
YOU BETTER GET TO CLASS!
OH RIGHT. ... OF COURSE.
KITA-JIMA-SEN-SEI!
WHO ARE THE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE OUENDAN THAT STILL GO TO SCHOOL HERE?

IT'S NO USE.
WE'RE NOT GONNA FIND KITAJIMA-SENSEI.
ANOTHER TEACHER SAID HE MIGHT HAVE ALREADY GONE HOME.
DAMN IT.
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO HIDE?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHAT THE FORMER OUENDAN MEMBERS LOOK LIKE BY WATCHING THESE DVDS.
WHAT IF THE OUENDAN'S HIATUS REALLY WAS...
...CAPTAIN USAMI'S FAULT?
YEAH, AND THE FORMER MEMBERS STILL HATE HER FOR IT?
DUM.
DADUM.
...
HEY.
I HEAR THE SOUND OF TAIKO DRUMS.
SOME-ONE MUST BE PRAC-TICING, HUH?
COULD IT BE THE CHEER-LEAD-ERS?
THE OUEN-DAN?
DUM
DADUM
DUM
DADUM
DUM

TAP
TAP
DA
DUM
DUM
TAP

DUM
TAP
TAP
DUM

THE OUEN-DAN'S CAP-TAIN ...
...REALLY CAN'T KEEP A BEAT, CAN SHE?

WHO?
HUH?
WASN'T THAT GUY IN THE VIDEO WE SAW?
WAIT ...

DUM
DA DUM DUM DUM
DA DA DA DUM
TAP
TA TAP
TAP
TAP TAP
TATAP

HEY!
AGH!
GRAB
YOU ...
... PLAYED TAIKO FOR THE OUENDAN, DIDN'T YOU?
BA-DUMP
ん...

OH MY GOD I'M SO SORRY !!
UHHHHH...
HUH?
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2!

It's the AFTERWORD!

It's been a while, but I'm back to writing for a shonen magazine. I've wanted to do a comic about an ouendan since I was in high school. Some people will tell me that I've already done that with 3-3-7 Byoshi!!, but all the ouendan did in that comic was die! I didn't get to actually draw the ouendan at all!

I wanted to include modern-day ouendan besides just the one from my old high school in my research, so I went to Fudooka High to gather material. I'd like to thank them for their cooperation! It was mind-boggling to me how clean the school buildings were kept and how nice all the students were.

Now that I'm an adult, there are times when I look back and wish I would have done things differently. I'll be happy if this manga inspires those of you who are in school now—or who will be in the future—to think about how you'll reflect on your current self once you've graduated in a few years!

2011.8. 久保ミツロウ ☆

Mitsurou Kubo, August 2011

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Again!! 1

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